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Training Announcements

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Learning and Talent Acquisition, 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.



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

Principles of Community Inclusion and Belonging
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This webinar is designed to equip IDD providers and support coordinators in Georgia with the knowledge and skills to promote community inclusion and a sense of belonging for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Participants will explore the principles of community inclusion, learn practical strategies to foster belonging, and understand the benefits of inclusive practices for individuals and the community.

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

**DSP Transformational Change:
Strengthening Person Centered Service Delivery
within the HCBS Settings Rule**

March 2026 Training Sessions Available Now

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Division of Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the **DSP Transformational Change: Strengthening Person Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule**. Each training session will be conducted in-person.

This series of one-day interactive workshops are intended for Direct Support Professionals so that they have a better understanding of the intent and expectations of the Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule. The Transformation Change workshop will be offered 8 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.

This workshop is designed for Direct Support Professionals recognizing their valued role in supporting the people who are using the NOW/COMP waivers. We are recommending 2 - 3 DSPs from each provider agency in each region served to take information back and mentor others within their organizations.

[Register Now!](#)

DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training



Just In Case
You Missed It

This training is only required for individuals who are becoming a **"New" Participant Direction (PD) Representative (Employer of Record)** for a waiver participant utilizing Participant Direction under the NOW/COMP waiver. Completing this training is a requirement before Participant-Direction services may begin. Each session will be conducted via Webex video conferencing online.

This training prepares "New" PD Representatives (Employers of Record) to begin Participant-Direction by reviewing:

- Role and Responsibilities of the PD Representative/Employer of Record
- Covered and non-covered services under NOW and COMP
- Employer authority and accountability

The "New" PD Representative (Employer of Record) is the person who will:

- Hire Participant-Direction staff and/or service vendors
- Supervise and manage staff
- Approve employee time and vendors service invoices
- Ensure waiver rules and followed
- Be legally responsible for Participant-Direction services

***If you are not the person who will serve as the "New" PD Representative (Employer of Record), this training is not intended for you.**

Registrations submitted by individuals outside of the intended audience will not be approved to attend.

All "New" PD Representatives/Employers that attend the training must sign a Memo of Understanding (MOU) and complete an Attestation form in order to begin self directing. Links to the required documents will be included in your registration confirmation email. (check your spam/junk mail, please) These documents must be completed and returned **within 3 business days** after attending the training. Failure to submit required documents within the required timeframe will delay the start of Participant Direction services.

Training Dates:

- March 31, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

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

Intended Audience

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!](#)

**IDD Statewide Provider Meetings:
Agenda Now Available,
Meeting Capacity Reached**

latest news

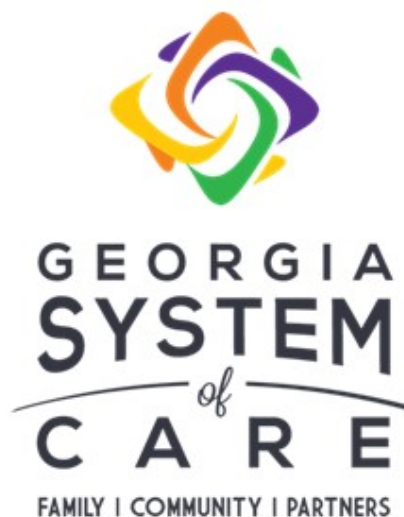
The meeting agenda for the March IDD Provider meetings is now available. Please click the button below to view the agenda.

All meeting sessions for the IDD Statewide Provider Meeting - March 2026 are currently at capacity. On-site registration will be limited and dependent on seat availability on the day of the meeting. If space becomes available due to no-shows once the meeting has started, on-site registration will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For those who are already registered and unable to attend, please cancel your registration by sending an email to DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

[View the Meeting Agenda Now!](#)

Featured Article



19th Annual System of Care Academy Conference

Collaborate. Cultivate. Celebrate

June 3-5, 2026 | Stone Mountain, GA

The 19th Annual Georgia System of Care Academy (SOCA) conference is scheduled for June 3-5, 2026, at the Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The theme this year is **Collaborate. Cultivate. Celebrate.**

Don't miss your chance to submit your Award Nominations or Workshop Proposal to make an even bigger impact at SOCA 2026. See additional details below!

SOCA Call for Exhibitors

**Submission Deadline:
Friday April 3, 2026**

During Wednesday, June 3rd only, the SOCA conference will offer exhibitors valuable space to showcase their organization's services!

Exhibiting is an excellent opportunity to introduce your organization and services to over 400 conference attendees.

For more information, visit the SOCA Call for Exhibitors website. It includes details on the intended audience, SOCA Exhibitor benefits, and instructions on submitting your proposal.

You are invited to submit your workshop proposal by or before the Friday, April 3, 2026 deadline at: <https://cvent.me/mRO9Xm>

SOCA Awards Nominations

**Submission Deadline:
Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

The System of Care Academy Awards will be presented this year **on Friday, June 5, 2026**, as the SOCA Awards will serve as the **conference's closing plenary**.

Timeline:

- **March 31st:** Submission Deadline
- **April:** Committee Review
- **Late April/May:** Notification
- **June 5th:** Awards Presented at 2026 SOCA Awards

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **There will NOT be a submission deadline extension.**
- Each year, these awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations embodying the **System of Care philosophy**—but we need your help to ensure their legacy continues. **Unfortunately, submission numbers have declined over the years, and if we do not increase participation, the awards may be at risk of being discontinued.**

Please take a moment to **nominate and distribute** widely within your networks. Encourage colleagues, providers, grantees, and community members to **honor the incredible work happening across Georgia's System of Care** by submitting their nominations before **Tuesday, March 31st at 11:59 PM**.

View the awards criteria and submit your nominations for the System of Care Academy Awards at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2026SOCA>

Nomination deadline for all awards: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 11:59pm

Do not miss your opportunity to make your nomination! Nominations are now open for the following award categories:

1. System of Care Youth Merit Award

(A young person who demonstrates SOC philosophy and principles through leadership and advocacy for themselves, families, and other youth.)

2. System of Care Individual Merit Award

(Individual demonstrating SOC leadership through community or agency advocacy and work.)

3. System of Care Organization Merit Award

(Organization embodying SOC philosophy, family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally competent core values.)

4. System of Care Grantee Merit Award

(One of the SOC grantees [SOC-Expansion, SOC-Block Grant, SOC] that have effectively utilized the allocated funds to enhance the implementation of the SOC philosophy. This was achieved by bolstering resources, education, services, and support for families and communities in alignment with the SOC framework.)

Award Nomination Questions? Contact dbhddlearning@dbhdd.ga.gov

DBHDD Announcements



DBHDD Seeks Public Comment On Licensure Rules & DATEP Rules

Following the transfer of licensing authority from the Department of Community Health (DCH) to Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) effective January 1, 2026, under Georgia House Bill 584, the Department is updating its licensure rules accordingly.

DBHDD has announced that the following proposed rules are now available for public comment:

- **Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs (DATEP) Rules** — covering operational standards for residential and nonresidential substance use disorder treatment programs
- **Licensure Enforcement and Sanctions Rules** — establishing general licensing and enforcement action requirements to ensure consistent oversight over all DBHDD Licensed Programs

The public comment period provides an opportunity for stakeholders to submit input, which may inform revisions prior to final adoption.

Public comments on these proposed rules and regulations must be submitted no later than Monday, April 6, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. Please see the links below for further instructions.

For more information, please visit <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/organization/be-informed/privacy-rules-regulations>.

Written public comment may be submitted via email to legal@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Any comments not able to be submitted via email may be submitted via regular mail to the following address:

Brenda Woodard, Esq., General Counsel
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
200 Piedmont Avenue S.E.
Suite 1406, West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334-9026

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Draft rules specific to Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs), Adult Residential Mental Health Programs (ARMHPs), and Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) will be published at a later date.

DBHDD Regional Field Operations

Regional Community Collaboratives: March 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 March 2026 Regional Community Collaborative (RCC) Meetings, please click the button below.

View the March 2026 RCC Meeting Schedule Now!

ATLANTA 2026 NAMICON

NAMICon 2026

**May 27 - 30, 2026
Atlanta Marriott Marquis**

Be part of a compassionate community where connection fuels learning, conversations spark ideas, and support turns into action long after the conference ends.

Where hundreds of dynamic and important voices unite to improve mental health for all through awareness, education, and advocacy.

From conversations to community care, NAMICon is where personal journeys are celebrated, positive change takes root, and new connections and community cultivate a safe space, fostering support, hope, and healing.

[Register Now!](#)



Requirements for CSU Construction, Renovation, or Modification

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Office of Incident Management and Compliance has issued the below memo to all Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs) and Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs).

The memo provides instruction and clarification regarding DBHDD policy **CSU: General Certification Requirements, 01-326**, specifically regarding CSU Construction, Renovation, and/or Modification.

All CSUs and BHCCs must review the entire DBHDD Memo by clicking the link below.

We appreciate your partnership in maintaining safe, compliant, and high-quality environments of care.

[View the DBHDD Memo to CSUs / BHCCs Now!](#)

Division of Developmental Disabilities

UGA DSP-TAP Program for IDD Providers



Attention NOW and COMP waiver providers:

DBHDD is dedicated to the continuation of strengthening the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce serving individuals with IDD service delivery needs. As such, we are pleased to announce that DBHDD has re-engaged our partnership with the University of Georgia to resume one of the three previously American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) sponsored DSP certification programs (DSP-TAP). The ongoing DSP certification program, spearheaded by the University of Georgia and DBHDD in close collaboration, will continue to strengthen the vital workforce that supports individuals with IDD-allowing both IDD service recipients and the IDD workforce to benefit from enhance professionalization of front-line service delivery.

The DSP TAP is available at no cost to current DSPs, those supporting people in self-direction, and those who intend on entering the workforce. Learners will engage in self paced online learning through the College of Direct Support for 12 weeks and competency is assessed via an online remote proctored exam. The DSP I (Entry level) is opening in April. The exam window will be open in July 2026.

A DSP II (Emerging) credentialing program will follow in August with an exam in November. Candidates must have earned the DSP I to move forward in the credentialing process. Up to 300 DSPs will be accepted at each level of the credential.

Interested DSPs should visit our website to learn more and complete the interest form to register:

<https://www.fcs.uga.edu/chdd/direct-support-professional-credentialing>

Participants of the UGA DSP-TAP 2026 pilot will continue to receive professional enrichment through a targeted and professionalized training regimen focusing on critical DSP competencies, including communication, person-centered practices, crisis prevention and intervention, community living skills and supports, ethics, among others. Please note financial incentive/bonuses will no longer be available for the 2026 DSP pilot as those previously bonus funds were only available during the Public Health Emergency by way of COVID-19 ARPA funding.

Thank you for your time and commitment in supporting these efforts as we continue to build a stronger NOW and COMP provider network.

Kindly,
Ron Wakefield
Division Director, Division of IDD

Office of Provider Relations

Question for your Provider Relations Team?

The Provider Inquiry Management System Plus (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 Inquiry Management System Plus (PIMS+)

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
support@dbhddpims.zendesk.com.



BE WELL



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

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