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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.



What does a DSP need to know about Home and Community-Based Services (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.

**What does a DSP need to know about
Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)? Webinar
Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

This webinar training will provide direct support professionals (DSPs) and managers with foundational knowledge of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and their role in supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Attendees will explore the purpose and principles of HCBS, including person-centered planning, community integration, individual rights, and promoting independence.

The intent of the training is to motivate and empower DSPs to support individuals to live meaningful lives in their communities and how to apply practices in delivering high-quality, person-centered support.

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

Safeguard's for the Individual's Living Environment: HCBS Requirements for Rights and Protection 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.

**Safeguard's for the Individual's Living Environment:
HCBS Requirements for Rights and Protection Webinar
Friday, May 23, 2025, 9:00AM - 10:00AM**

This webinar training provides an overview of the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) requirements focused on safeguarding individual rights and ensuring a safe person-centered living environment.

Participants will gain an understanding of federal and state HCBS settings regulations, including the rights of individuals with IDD to have privacy, dignity, autonomy, and freedom from coercion and restraint. The training will explore best practices for assessing and enhancing the physical and emotional safety of living environments, promoting informed choice, and supporting community integration.

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

I/DD Existing Provider Workshop

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

**I/DD Existing Provider Workshop
Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 9:00AM - 1:00PM**

The virtual workshop will consist of two modules, both held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

Schedule:

Module 1 - 9:00 am to 10:45 am

- Provider Expansion

BREAK – 10:45am – 11:00am

Module 2 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

- Provider Updates & Provider Maintenance

The virtual workshop will provide information on the following topics:

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
- DBHDD Certification
- Letter of Agreement (LOA)

Current approved DBHDD I/DD providers are encouraged to attend. Questions regarding this workshop can be submitted to GACollaborativePR@carelon.com

HCBS Requirements: Provider Expectations and Overview 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.

HCBS Requirements: Provider Expectations and Overview HCBS Webinar Thursday, May 29, 2025, 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This training provides an overview of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), focusing on federal and state requirements, provider responsibilities, and the purpose of HCBS within the broader Medicaid framework. Participants will gain a clear understanding of the principles of person-centered planning, community integration, and individual rights that guide HCBS delivery. The session will also highlight provider expectations regarding service documentation, compliance, quality assurance, and promoting independence and choice for individuals receiving supports. This training is essential for providers seeking to align with HCBS standards and deliver high-quality, person-centered services.

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



AVAILABLE NOW

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

NEW TRAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS ADDED

Training Dates:

- Monday, June 2, 10:00AM - 12:00PM OR 1:00PM - 3:00PM (CUMMING, GA)
- Monday, July 28, 10:00AM - 12:00PM OR 1:00PM - 3:00PM (THOMASVILLE, GA)
- Tuesday, July 29, 10:00AM - 12:00PM OR 1:00PM - 3:00PM (MACON, GA)

Target Audience:

This training opportunity is intended for behavioral health clinicians responsible for the care of individuals who are or may be at risk for suicide.

Training Location:

Location address will be included in registration confirmation.

This IN-PERSON training is now open to Regions 1, 2 and 4

Additional details to follow for other Regions once dates and location details are confirmed.

See the attached flyer for additional information.

Registration is now open! Click the link below to register.

Register Now!

Updated Flyer: C-SSRS Training 2025



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.

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.



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

**Training Dates Now Available through
June 2025**

**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:

PCSsupport@ReplacingRisk.com

DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training



reminder

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:

- June 3, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- June 17, 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!](#)

Support Need Levels & Tiered Rates Virtual Webinar

June 16, 2025, 1:30PM - 2:30PM

This information session will cover the rollout of updates to the support need levels framework that is used to inform tiered rates for certain DBHDD services. This session is intended for DBHDD



service providers as well as DBHDD Central and Regional staff, and Support Coordinators.

The goal of the webinar is to share information about the updates to the 7-level support need levels framework that are necessary due to the recent updates that were made to the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment.

Registration is required.

The webinar will include a discussion of the following:

- Support Need Levels Framework Updates
 - Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) updates
 - Overview of the new 7-level framework
- Implementation Plan
 - Phase-in schedule
- Reassessment Policy
 - Change in condition
- Q&A

[Register Now!](#)

Featured Article

CheckPT Updates

The following updates are now in CheckPT:

- Applicants can now view their UEID on the applicant home page. This can be used to schedule an appointment with Idemia in the event the applicant does not receive an email from them.
 - **NOTE: If no UEID is present, the applicant is not yet cleared to schedule an appointment, and the provider still needs to approve them in the system.**
- A new notification will be sent to providers to alert them when applicants are still pending fingerprints (even if fingerprints are already scheduled). The user list that will be in the email includes all applicants who have not had fingerprints taken 30 days from the date the application was submitted.
- **APPLICABLE TO STAFFING AGENCIES ONLY: As part of the Related Provider setup, a new update will make the Related Provider field be required on the Pre-Employment page.**
 - **NOTE:** The Related Provider field on the pre-employment page will not allow a provider/staffing agency to use their own provider code in that field. It will only allow the provider code for the related provider (the provider the staffing agency is hiring the applicant to work). Staffing agencies are encouraged to request and keep related provider codes for the worksites that applicants will be hired to work.



Roster Management

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.

Helpful Hints for roster verification:

- Removing employees from your CheckPT roster can be part of your offboarding process. This will keep only current employees on your roster and allow the verification process to be faster.
- Verify all employees at the same time every 60 days or less, even those recently hired. That way everyone is on the same schedule, and verification can be smoother.

Please keep in mind that staff fingerprinted prior to CheckPT will not be on your roster.

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.

Account Management

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.

Training Materials

Please review and bookmark **user guides and training video**. These are available on [DBHDD University](#) and on the [DBHDD website](#). User guides are also available on CheckPT's "Help" page. Please note that there is an updated CheckPT Applicant User Guide available.

Division of Developmental Disabilities



SAVE THE DATE

for the

River Edge Crisis Services
and Diagnostic Center

and the

Mercer University School of Medicine
Center for IDD Care

OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

10:00 AM

750 HAZEL STREET
MACON, GEORGIA 31201

PARRISH
CONSTRUCTION GROUP



Georgia
Department of
Behavioral Health
& Developmental
Disabilities



MERCER
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Center for IDD Care



Office of Investigative Services



Summer Safety Reminders

With Summer sun comes the lure of ocean breezes at the beach, a day on the lake with a boat trip, relaxing in a hot tub or warm spring or a dip in the pool or activities at a Splash Park. Water activities such as swimming, water aerobics, or just floating on a raft can be extremely beneficial to people with or without disabilities.

Water fitness activities can improve heart and lung function, improve motor skills and coordination, helps to maintain a healthy weight, reduces pain by alleviating pressure on joints and muscles, supports independence, improves social wellbeing and mental health.

As with any person engaging in activities including water, it is important to mitigate risks and be informed about basic water safety. In a survey conducted by the American Red Cross, approximately 54% of all Americans either can't swim at all or don't have basic swimming skills needed to be safe in aquatic environments.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities wants to ensure people can make informed choices and have the dignity of risk when engaging in summertime (or anytime) water activities all while reducing the potential for adverse outcomes.

Below are some water safety tips and things to consider when planning water activities for people according to the American Red Cross:

- Develop a plan and know what to do in a water emergency.
 1. Learn/Know the signs for when a person is struggling or drowning.
 2. Make sure appropriate life saving devices (such as reach poles, lifesaver floats) are available and accessible in water areas.
 3. Learn how to help someone in a water emergency, such as “reach or throw, don't go.”
 4. How to call for emergency services.
 5. CPR
- Create layers of protection
 1. Ensure physical barriers to prevent access to water, if a pool at home, a water break alarm in conjunction with a physical barrier.
 2. Educate individuals on the importance of informing someone when they want to go near or in water.
 3. Correctly sized and fitted life jackets (when appropriate for the activity and skill level).
 4. Line of sight supervision.
- Review water safety plan and tips with individuals prior to water activities and upon arrival.
- Educate individuals on how to signal (call) for help when in distress.
- Never swim alone, use a swim buddy system.
- When using public water areas, make sure lifeguards are present and individuals can identify the lifeguards.
- Be a “water watcher” avoid all unnecessary distractions such as phones or computers.

- Do not use drugs or alcohol when engaging in water activities or supervising people.

The American Red Cross has a free online course for Water Safety for Parents & Caregivers and a variety of safety infographic posters in their Water Safety Resource Center. Click the link for more information and resources: [Water Safety | American Red Cross](#)

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



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S.E. West Tower | Atlanta, GA 30334 US

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