

BE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING CORNER



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DBHDD COMMISSIONER TANNER

Dear DBHDD family,

Today, I am launching the second annual DBHDD Flame of Hope awards, recognizing individuals throughout the state who “fan the flames of hope” and further the mission and values of DBHDD. I am seeking nominations from community leaders, board members, DBHDD staff, affiliated organizations and providers to ensure every voice and community is heard.



I am asking for your help in identifying these individuals, staff people or community members for this honor. A public event recognizing the award winners will be held at the State Capitol in November on at date to be determined. A special private ceremony for nominees and their families will follow.

Examples of nominations include but aren't limited to:

- An individual or peer who embodies the miracle of recovery or success in residential or independent living
- A CSB, external providers or other staff person whose dedication helps fan the flames of hope for individuals who live in group homes, independently or are in recovery
- A volunteer or supporter whose time, talent and treasure furthers DBHDD's mission and values
- A community member or leader whose contributions or advocacy helps improve the lives of individuals or fans the flames of hope more broadly

Please submit your nomination via dbhdd.georgia.gov/flame-hope-nominations or email public.affairs@dbhdd.ga.gov by 8 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024.

Video submissions or photos are encouraged but not required. You may nominate more than one individual. Honorees and their nominators will be notified and announced by the end of the month, with ceremony details forthcoming.

We are excited to hear your stories and honor our most deserving folks in every corner of the state. Thank you for all you do every day.

Best regards,

Kevin Tanner
Commissioner of DBHDD

Training Announcements

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

- **IDD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training**



If you have any questions, please contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.



2024 Pediatric Suicide Prevention Virtual Summit

Thursday, September 19, 2024

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Federal Grant Programs and Suicide Prevention is pleased to announce the *2024 Pediatric Suicide Prevention Virtual Summit*, which will target Georgia's pediatric primary care providers, pediatric nurses, and other clinical and non-clinical staff.

This virtual summit will offer education and discussion which will help to uncover and care for the mental health needs of youth as well as support parents and guardians.

Workshops

Pediatric Mental Health for Primary Care Providers
9:15 – 10:15a.m.

Know the Data: Suicide Indicators in Georgia
10:30 – 11:30a.m.

Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Multicultural Youth
11:45a.m. – 12:45a.m

[Click here to register.](#)

For any questions, please email DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov. This meeting will be online via WebEx.



BLAZING THE TRAIL TO RECOVERY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2024



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities



*Celebrating 10 years of the Behavioral Health Symposium
and 25 years of Peer Support Services*

Behavioral Health Symposium

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Division of Behavioral Health, is thrilled to announce the return of our in-person Behavioral Health Symposium! This year's event will be held from October 9 – 11, 2024, at the beautiful Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge in Buford, GA.

Conference Highlights:

- Oct. 9: Pre-Symposium Workshop Sessions
- Oct. 9: Behavioral Health Awards Dinner (6 – 8 PM)
- Oct. 10 & 11: Engaging Plenary Sessions and Breakout Sessions focused on our five dynamic tracks: Clinical, Cultural Competency, Leadership, Paraprofessional, and Recovery.

Registration Information:

- Website & Registration Link: <https://dbhdd.cventevents.com/2024BHSymposium>
- Cost: FREE
- Note: Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, with a waitlist available once capacity is reached. **Please be aware that registration officially closes on September 18, 2024, at 11:45PM, but fills up quickly.**

For any technical issues with registration or other inquiries, please contact dbhddlearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

The Georgia Summit: Elevating & Celebrating DSPs

Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Anderson Conference Center
Macon, GA



The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce **The Georgia Summit! Elevating & Celebrating DSPs!**

The Georgia Summit! Elevating & Celebrating DSPs! This is a dynamic learning experience designed specifically for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) across Georgia. This event focuses on celebrating the invaluable work of DSPs, introducing council members and their roles, fostering networking opportunities, and enhancing the community of practice among professionals. Participants will engage in 9 interactive stations, each aimed at keeping them energized and motivated by exploring the journey of DSPs where they have been, the milestones achieved, and the exciting path ahead.

[Click here to register.](#)

For any questions, please email Robert Chandler at robert.o.chandler@gmail.com or you may reach him by phone at (404) 293-8958.

Featured Article

ATTENTION NOW & COMP PROVIDERS



Updating Demographic Maintenance in GAMMIS

If you have not received the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provider survey due to an incorrect email address in the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS), the Department of Community Health (DCH) has provided steps to update this information.

Click the guide below for step-by-step instructions.

[Guide to Updating Contact Email in
GAMMIS](#)

Once you have updated the contact email address, please send an email to HCBSTransition@dch.ga.gov to request the survey be resent.

Division of Developmental Disabilities

HCBS Settings Rule Survey & Resources

The Department of Community Health (DCH) has sent the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provider survey to all NOW and COMP Waiver providers to whom the HCBS Settings Rule is applicable. Below are the services which are encompassed by the HCBS Settings Rule and require a survey for each service site:



- Community Residential Alternative including Host Home
- Community Access Group
- Supported Employment Group
- Out of Home Respite
- Prevocational Services

Again, please note each service site requires completion of the HCBS provider survey.

The HCBS provider survey went to the contact email for each service site which is identified on the [Georgia Medicaid Management Information System \(GAMMIS\)](#) website. This email address can be found by hovering over the "Provider Enrollment" tab and selecting the link for "Provider Contract Status". Once on the webpage, enter the applicable Medicaid Provider ID for the site in question to obtain the email address of the staff which received the HCBS survey.

The surveys for each service site must be completed by Monday, September 16, 2024. Completion of the survey is mandatory for all relevant providers as indicated above.

For any questions or issues with completion of the survey, please contact HCBSTransition@dch.ga.gov.

HCBS Settings Rule Resources

You can find detailed explanations, Q&A's, and technical guidance on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [Home & Community Based Settings Requirements Compliance Toolkit](#) website.

Additional resources can be found on DCH's [HCBS Transition Plan](#) webpage including the Georgia Statewide Transition Plan and the [Final Settings Rule Provider Guidance](#).

During the provider meeting sessions, there were several questions about the interplay between physician's orders, health and safety, the Individual Service Plan (ISP), and the rights and choices outlined in the Settings Rule.

A key take-away was providers may not restrict rights based on the provider's preference, convenience, or other arbitrary reasons, etc. However, modifications such as meal plans, supervision, and health-care monitoring to maintain health and safety may be allowable. Those must be developed in collaboration with the individual and guardian as well as outlined in the ISP as part of the course of care.

Modification of the requirements specifying the rights of individuals must be based on individually assessed need, justified, and documented in the person-centered ISP as described in § 42 CFR section 441.301(c) (4) (vi) (F). The person-centered ISP must reflect risk factors and measures in place to minimize them, including individualized back-up plans and strategies.

Please review this [CMS Q&A](#) as it provides a helpful summary of common Q&A for both residential and non-residential HCBS providers, including a section on restrictions beginning on page 12.

Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Renewal Listening Session



The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) invite you to participate in the COMP waiver renewal listening session. During this session, DBHDD and DCH will receive feedback from the public on the COMP waiver for the purposes of an upcoming COMP renewal. DBHDD and DCH are interested in learning more about services and functions that are working well, areas for improvement and other recommendations from the public.

This listening session is for the general public, IDD Providers, Support Coordination agencies, self-advocates, family members and related stakeholders. DBHDD State and Regional Office staff are also welcome to attend. All attendees must register.

Friday, September 20, 2024
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

or

Wednesday, September 25, 2024
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

[Click here to register](#). Please select only **one** date to attend, as both sessions will include the same information.

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

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.

Director
Anna Bourque

Senior Provider Relations Managers
Carole Crowley
Sharon Pyles

For Provider Relations inquiries,
please contact us at
DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov.



BE WELL



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