

**BE CONNECTED**NETWORK  
NEWS  
"News You Can Use"

## Training Announcements

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



- **Facilitating Healing of Family Violence, Anger and Substance Abuse in Treatment**
- **HRST: One Day Training for Clinical Reviewers**
- **HRST: One Day Training for Intensive/Support Coordinators, State Service Coordinators, and Intensive SC Clinical Supervisors**
- **Positive Behavior Supports Curriculum Train the Trainer Series**
- **I/DD Participant Direction New Enrollment**

If you have any questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).

### I/DD Statewide Provider Meeting

**May 11, 2023**  
**9:00 am - 12:30 pm**



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Statewide Provider meeting. This meeting will be conducted remotely via our WebEx platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

**IMPORTANT NOTE: All I/DD Provider Agencies are required per their Letter of Agreement (LOA) to have a representative in attendance at the I/DD Statewide Provider Meetings.**

### I/DD Supported Employment Training Opportunity

The following opportunity has been made available by the DBHDD Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in partnership with Wise to advance Competitive Integrated Employment in Georgia.

#### Plan to Placement Cohort

Our DBHDD partners at Wise (Washington Initiative for Supported

Employment) are offering another round of their highly successful **Plan to Placement Cohort beginning April 11, 2023!** Attendees will take a deep dive into gathering employment information on job seekers and enhance their Person-Centered Employment plan development skills.



Cohort participants are asked to attend all 6 sessions. The dates are as follows:

1. April 11, 3:30-5:00pm EST
2. April 25, 3:30-5:00pm EST
3. May 9, 3:30-5:00pm EST
4. May 23, 3:30-5:00pm EST
5. June 6, 3:30-5:00pm EST
6. June 20, 3:30-5:00pm EST

**To register for the event, [click here](#).** There are a limited number of spots available.

**Important note:** *There is no registration fee for I/DD Supported Employment Providers who are active members of and participate in the monthly Supported Employment Gardens meetings. To become a member of the Gardens and obtain the registration code, which allows these providers to attend for free, please contact Jenny Crook at [Jenny@gowise.org](mailto:Jenny@gowise.org) with any questions.*

Click the link below for more information.

[Plan to Placement Cohort  
Flyer](#)



## I/DD Provider Training Opportunities

The Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD present the following training opportunities for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Providers. Please click on the title of each training to register.

### **Supported Decision Making - Webinar** **Friday, April 7, 2023, 10:30 am to 11:30 am**

This training session will provide a discussion of the emergence of Supported Decision-Making (SDM) and the factors which have contributed to the increased adoption of SDM around the country. Participants will learn how SDM can be an alternative to guardianship for people with I/DD. Specific applications of SDM around the country will be reviewed as well as evaluation results. Finally, National Core Indicators data from Georgia will be provided to show how important quality of life outcomes (employment, choice, community inclusion) vary depending on whether individuals have a guardian.

### **Setting Up a Person-Centered Environment - Webinar** **Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

This webinar will focus on factors which help develop the unique person-centered culture for each setting, including consideration of the preferences, routines, and wishes of the individuals, the skills and talents of the staff, and the options created by the physical

environment. Participants will learn how to set up such a culture in a home, community, day center, or other settings. Information will be shared illustrating the satisfaction and improved quality of life which results from this unique culture.

**Developmental Disability Professional Documentation - Webinar**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 9:00 am to 10:00 am**

Participants will learn about updates to DBHDD's documentation requirements for Developmental Disabilities Professionals (DDP) and how DDPs can use these requirements to provide person centered supports and services to individuals served. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how to enhance documentation practices and develop communication systems to enable DDPs to support and track goals for individuals they support.

***Please note this training is targeted for I/DD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals and Planning List Administrators.***

For any questions or registration issues, please contact [GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com](mailto:GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com).

## Featured Article

### DBHDD Regional Field Office & State Office Contacts



Please find at the links below updated contact lists for the Divisions of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities. These staff are available to assist you as needed when there are questions or issues regarding individuals receiving or in need of services.

For questions related to policies, procedures and community standards as outlined in the DBHDD Community Provider Manuals or PolicyStat, we encourage you to submit those to the Office of Provider Relations via the [Provider Issue Management System \(PIMS\)](#).

Division of Behavioral  
Health

Division of Developmental  
Disabilities

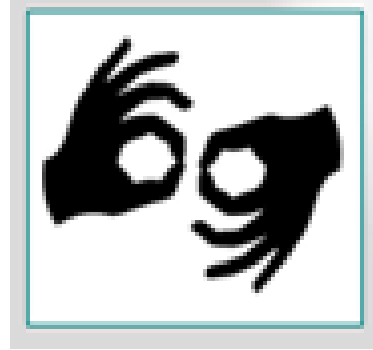
## DBHDD Announcements

### Office of Deaf Services

#### Qualified Mental Health Interpreters

As you may already know, each year DBHDD sponsors the training of new Qualified Mental Health Interpreters (QMHI's)

who will be able to provide sign language interpreting for deaf individuals receiving behavioral health services. We are excited to announce that in addition, DBHDD's Office of Deaf Services now also serves as a Qualified Mental Health Interpreter Practicum Site. What this means for our provider network is that our staff who are also Qualified Mental Health Interpreter-Supervisors may have a Practicum Interpreter accompanying them during the interpreting of service delivery. This 40-hour practicum is the capstone experience for RID-certified interpreters who have completed their QMHI training classwork and have passed their examination, and who are seeking a specialty endorsement as a QMHI. Completion of the practicum is another step towards increasing the supply of QMHIs available to serve here in Georgia.



It is important to note that all Practicum Interpreters completing their 40-hour "on site practicum" in Georgia have signed a Business Associate Agreement with DBHDD. The individual Practicum Interpreters are considered "business associates" of DBHDD as defined in the Privacy and Security Rules. As part of the business associate agreement between DBHDD and the Practicum Interpreter, the Practicum Interpreter will provide certain services to DBHDD. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Practicum Interpreter may be required to receive Protected Health Information ("PHI") as defined in the Privacy and Security Rules.

Practicum Interpreters will be under full supervision of a DBHDD staff Interpreter at all times. The Practicum Interpreters will be accompanying DBHDD staff Interpreters to client appointments. All Practicum Interpreters have undergone HIPAA training as part of the Business Associate Agreement as well as all standard ethics in the workplace training modules.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Sterling, Director, Office of Deaf Services at [Kelly.Sterling@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Kelly.Sterling@dbhdd.ga.gov) or Sereta Campbell, Interpreter Coordinator, Office of Deaf Services at [Sereta.Campbell@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Sereta.Campbell@dbhdd.ga.gov).

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## Division of Developmental Disability

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### I/DD Supported Employment Regional Gardens Meeting

The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with WISE (Washington Initiative for Supported Employment), would like to invite you to Georgia's Monthly Supported Employment Gardens Meeting.



All Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Supported Employment providers are welcome to attend. If you are not currently a member of the Regional Gardens, this is a great opportunity to join a growing team of providers, state agencies, advocates, and others working together to increase Competitive Integrated Employment in Georgia.

Click the date below to register for the April Regional Gardens meeting.

**April 19, 2023, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Contact [support@gowise.com](mailto:support@gowise.com) for any questions.

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### I/DD Supported Employment

# Georgia Video Storytelling Project

Wise (Washington Initiative for Supported Employment), in collaboration with DBDHH, is pleased to announce the **Video Storytelling Project starting April 2023**. This project is designed to build the capacity of Georgia provider agencies. Videos created will be available for provider use as well as featured for statewide benefit.



The Video Storytelling Project will provide training and support to walk you through creating brief stories and tips for videos promoting Competitive Integrated Employment statewide. Videos can also be utilized within your own organization. Gain the capacity to create future videos to meet the needs of your organization and jobseekers and supported employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

No specialized videography equipment is needed to participate in this project!

[Click here for more information and to access the application.](#)

Please note, following registration and approval by DBHDD, organizations will be provided more detailed information outlining project parameters and time commitment for the desired project.

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## Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

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### Coping with Anger after Disaster

As warmer weather makes its way to Georgia, please anticipate the heightened risk for severe weather events. Additionally, please be conscious of spending time outside with children and pets as temperatures climb.

This month we are looking at coping with feelings of anger following a disaster. Whether it is a natural disaster or man-made, anger is a universal experience people in all societies endure. Changes in short or long-term plans, financial worries, reaction to the disaster itself, and the response efforts taking place can be a cause of anger for some. We want everyone to be aware of this and be prepared to aid all survivors, as well as take care of yourself.

[Click here](#) for more information.



**Anger is a common reaction....**

The symptoms of anger can look a lot like those of stress/ anxiety (e.g., racing heartbeat, increase in blood pressure, faster breathing).

**Tips for calming down:**

- Avoid placing blame: When speaking, use “I” statements & avoid words like “always, never, should.”
- Focus on areas of life that you can control.
- Practice forgiveness as much as possible.
- Exercise: push-ups, sit ups, go on a walk, practice yoga, etc.
- Practice relaxation techniques: progressive muscle relaxation, mindfulness, deep breathing, etc.
- Connect with the community: seek out support groups or other organizations to connect with others.
- Stay active and engaged.
- Maintain normal sleeping and eating behaviors.
- Avoid drugs and alcohol.

**Tools & Resources**

**APA: Strategies for Controlling Anger**

**CDC: Taking Care of Your Mental Health**

**Mayo Clinic: 10 Tips to Tame your Temper**

**SAMHSA Tips for Survivors: Coping with Anger**

**SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center**

**Ready.gov: Coping with Disaster**

If you have any questions, please contact the DBHDD Office of Disaster Mental Health Services at [kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov) or 404-416-2829.

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## DBHDD Policy Information

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Since March 1, 2023, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

**Prevention of Choking and Aspiration for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Living in the Community, 02-801**

**Accreditation and Compliance Review Requirements for Providers of Developmental Disability Services, 02-703**

As a reminder, all current policies can be found on [PolicyStat](#).

Please direct all policy-related questions to the Office of Provider Relations via the Provider Issue Management System (PIMS). To submit your questions, [click here](#).

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## Office of Provider Relations & ASO Coordination

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**JUST A REMINDER...**

# Question for your Provider Relations Team?

The **Provider Issues 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 ISSUES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

PIMS is also accessible through the [DBHDD website](#) by hovering over the **"For Provider"** tab located across the top of the page. When the drop-down menu appears, click on **"Questions for your Provider Relations Team"**.

### Director

Anna Bourque

### Senior Provider Relations Managers

Carole Crowley

Sharon Pyles

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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