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NEWS
"News You Can Use"

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](#).

- **Positive Behavior Supports Curriculum Train-the-Trainer Series - Hybrid**



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



Intellectual and Developmental Disability Provider Training Opportunities

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

Technology: How It Can Support Inclusion & Independence **Friday, April 5, 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am**

This webinar will introduce technological advances which can help people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and how staff can support individuals to identify and use technology. Participants will learn how technology can support valued outcomes in people's lives including social inclusion, employment, communication, health and mental health.

Participants will discover which types of technological aids are covered by public funding, how to make sure any needed technological aids are included in the person-centered plan, and what National Core Indicators for Georgia reveal about the use of technology among people receiving services.

Building Inclusive Communities - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 9:30 am to 10:30 am**

This webinar will focus on the importance of creating an inclusive community for both people receiving services and direct support professionals (DSPs). It will discuss the importance of respecting the cultures and religion/spiritual preferences of individuals. It will also stress the importance of equitable opportunities for advancement among DSP staff. The National Core

Indicators reflecting potential racial inequities will be reviewed and recommendations will be suggested.

Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals and Planning List Administrators. For any questions or registration issues, please contact GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com.

IDD Statewide Provider Meetings

May 21st - 23rd, 2024
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting in-person Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Statewide Provider meetings. The IDD Provider meetings will be scheduled every quarter in 3 different locations to accommodate those which are in the north, south and metro Atlanta areas.



Stay tuned for registration information!

- May 21st - Tifton
- May 22nd - Macon
- May 23rd - Douglasville

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

SAVE THE DATE

14th Annual The Georgia Gathering

September 5-6, 2024
Unicoi State Park
Helen, GA



The Gathering is intended for intellectual and developmental disabilities provider leadership, Developmental Disability Professionals (DDPs), Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and individuals served. During our time together we share, learn, and grow on our continued person-centered journey as a state.

Stay tuned for more information!

Featured Article

Transformational Change:

Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule

DON'T MISS IT!

**April 16th & April 17th, 2024
Macon, Georgia**

This one-day in-person interactive workshop is for Intellectual and Developmental Disability providers, Support Coordinators and Field Office staff to better understand the intent and expectations of the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule.

The Transformation Change workshop will be offered 12 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 which 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 to register!](#)

Additional sessions will be offered in Athens, Savannah, Waycross, Columbus, Albany, Cartersville, and Atlanta in May, June & July 2024.

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

Division of Developmental Disabilities

NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey 2023

reminder

The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities would like to request assistance from Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) providers with the **2023 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey** (formerly called the Staff Stability Survey).

The National Core Indicators-Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI-IDD) State of the Workforce Survey for 2023 data will begin in March for eligible Providers who employed Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) during the 2023 calendar year. This survey gathers information about employees providing direct “hands on” services and supports, often referred to as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). This survey gathers information on staffing levels, job stability, wages, compensation, and focuses on the DSP workforce employed between 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023.

Eligible provider agencies will receive an email beginning March 15th with a unique link to the survey. Additionally, a survey invite will be sent to each Provider agency during this survey cycle and should be completed by the agency’s Human Resources or Payroll offices. **The survey deadline is June 30, 2024.**

Please submit any questions directly to Division contact, Latonya Williams latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov for more information.

Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults

First Responder TIPS Guides are available!



The Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults (Coalition) is an ad-hoc committee and a key component in statewide emergency preparedness efforts. It consists of stakeholder agencies throughout Georgia. The mission of the coalition is to serve as a comprehensive clearinghouse between local advocacy groups serving individuals with disabilities and older adults, and state agencies responsible for emergency preparedness and response under the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP).

We are excited to announce the completion of the revised **First Responder TIPS Guides**. The quick reference guide provides specific, practical tips for working with individuals who have a wide range of disabilities and challenges. The information within the TIPS guide is color-coded for easy access before, during, and after a crisis. Physical copies are available through the **State ADA Office**.

Coalition meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 2:00pm. Please contact Kalie Burke (kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov) or Keilondria Robertson (keilondria.robertson1@dph.ga.gov) to be added to the email distribution list.

Crisis Counseling Assistance & Training Program Updates

The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training program (CCP) helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through community outreach and access to mental health services. The program supports short-term interventions that help:



- disaster survivors understand their current situation and reactions to the problems caused or worsened by the disaster;
- reduce stress and provide emotional support;
- assist survivors in understanding their disaster recovery options;
- promote the use or development of coping strategies;
- connect survivors with other people or agencies who can help them to recover from the disaster.

Information below highlights CCP assistance provided to Georgians through the Georgia Recovery Project.

DR-4738 - Hurricane Idalia

September 2023 - March 2024

Disaster Outreach Services: Secondary Services (Media Outreach)

- 2,591 clicks, with most coming from those age 35+.
- Most individuals that clicked on the ads were males.
- Valdosta, GA was the zip code we have seen the most clicks in (431).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults (GEPC)
April 4, 2024 @ 2:30pm
Email [Kalie Burke](#) to register.

Critical Incident Stress Management – Group & Individual April 2-4, 2024
Region E Healthcare Coalition
(Athens)

Recovery from Disaster: The Local Community Role
GEMA
April 8-9, 2024
(Forsyth)

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management
GEMA
April 12, 2024
(Hall County - Gainesville)

Mental Health First Aid - Youth UGA
April 19, 2024
(Sumter County - Americus)

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management
Dodge County Board of Education
April 25, 2024
(Dodge County - Eastman)

TOOLS & RESOURCES

Georgia Emergency Management
Department of Public Health
Ready.Gov
American Red Cross

Georgia Healthcare Coalitions
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Please contact [Kalie Burke](#), Disaster Mental Health Coordinator, for any questions. You can also view the Department of Public Health and DBHDD [Georgia Disaster Mental Health](#) website for additional resources and information.

DBHDD Policy Information

Since March 1, 2024, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112

Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201

Reporting the Detention or Incarceration of Individuals Receiving NOW or COMP Waiver Services, 02-1204

Confidentiality and HIPAA Practices Involving Business Associates, 23-107

Verification of Lawful Presence in United States for Individuals Seeking Services and Related Discharge Procedures, 24-109

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](#).

Office of Provider Relations & ASO Coordination

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 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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