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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. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).

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



Offering Meaningful Choice 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.

Offering Meaningful Choice Webinar
Monday, April 7, 2025, 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This training webinar will focus on the importance of offering meaningful choices to individual's supported, explaining what supported-decision making means, and strategies that can be used to gather this information.

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

**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.

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT ...

DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training

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:

- April 10, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- April 16, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Registration is **REQUIRED**. Seating is limited and once maximum capacity is reached we are unable to adequately accept walk-ins that have not registered.

[Register Now](#)

Annual Behavioral Health Statewide Prevention Providers Meeting



Wednesday, April 23 - Thursday, April 24, 2025

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Office of Prevention Services is excited to host its Annual Networking Provider Meeting on April 23-24 in Augusta, GA from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm each day. This gathering serves as a cornerstone event for prevention providers across Georgia to come together, connect, and collaborate on innovative approaches to enhancing the behavioral health and well-being of our communities.

The primary goal of this meeting is to foster meaningful partnerships by creating opportunities for providers to share resources, exchange best practices, and learn from one another's successes and challenges. This event will feature:

- Interactive Networking Sessions: Designed to build strong, supportive relationships among providers.
- Collaborative Workshops: Focused on evidence-based strategies and community engagement to improve prevention efforts.
- Expert Presentations: Highlighting emerging trends and opportunities in behavioral health prevention.
- Resource Sharing: Providing access to tools and materials that support effective programming.

By bringing together a diverse network of prevention providers, the Annual Networking Provider Meeting underscores the power of collaboration in addressing behavioral health disparities, increasing resilience, and promoting wellness across Georgia. This is more than just a meeting—it's a chance to strengthen the collective impact of our efforts and ensure every community has the support and resources needed to thrive.

We look forward to seeing you in Augusta and working together to advance prevention services and promote positive mental health for all Georgians!

Registration Deadline: 4/15/2025

[Click here to register!](#)

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

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



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.

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



2025 DD Learning Collaborative

This year's theme is **Pathways to Possibilities: Dreaming Big, Achieving Aspirations!** We are pleased to present this year's three-day conference, dedicated to exploring key topics such as Autism, Engagement, Self-Advocacy, and Trauma-Informed Practices, among many others.

This event will feature a variety of sessions designed to foster a mindset of growth and promote best practices within the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) service delivery system. Attendees will gain valuable insights into supporting individuals as they pursue and achieve their aspirations.

ALL DD Providers, including Direct Support Professionals, Nurses, Support Coordinators, and Paraprofessionals are invited to attend.

Please Note: Confirmed registration and full attendance each day, is required for CEUs and Certificate of Attendance. On-site parking is available. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Call for Proposal

Are you interested in conducting one of the plenaries or workshops? If so, please follow this link and complete the proposal forms and include all required attachments:

[DD Learning Collaborative Call for Proposals 2025](#)

Submission Deadline for Proposals: April 17, 2025

Featured Article

**Important Security Reminder:
Verify Visitor Identification**

Attention DBHDD Providers!



We want to remind all provider agency staff to remain vigilant in verifying the identity of visitors. Recently, there was a substantiated report of an individual posing as an employee of a state agency to gain access to a provider facility. To help maintain the safety and security of the individuals being served, please ensure that all visitors claiming to be government representatives present a valid agency-issued badge upon arrival.

If you encounter anyone unable to provide an identification badge from a state agency, do not grant them access. Please immediately report the situation through your agency's procedures, and to the state agency the person claimed to represent.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the individuals being served safe

DBHDD Announcements

FREE 988 Materials Available on SAMHSA!

The 988 Lifeline publishes and regularly updates a 988 Partner Toolkit, which provides partners social media, video, print, radio, FAQs, messaging, and other marketing materials that can be used to promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



Order FREE 988 materials on SAMHSA's online story today:
<https://orders.gpo.gov/SAMHSA988/Pubs.aspx>

Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

Managing Stress While Preparing for Disasters

APRIL IS STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

Disaster preparedness can feel overwhelming, but taking small steps can reduce stress and build confidence. Here's how to stay calm while getting ready:

Break it Down

Tackle preparedness in steps, such as assembling an emergency kit or making a family plan.

Stay Informed, Not Overwhelmed

Follow reliable sources for updates but take breaks from distressing news.

Focus on What you can Control

Accept that some things are unpredictable, but preparation helps increase safety and resilience.

Practice Self-Care

Engage in calming activities, such as deep breathing, exercise, or time with loved ones.

Preparation doesn't have to be stressful – it can empower you to feel more secure and ready for the unexpected.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Recovery from Disaster: The Local Community Role (G205-EM)

April 3 – 4, 2025
(Forsyth)

EMAG Conference

April 8 – 10, 2025
(Tybee Island)

FEMA Housing Resource Fair

April 12, 2025
Carrie Dorsey Perry Memorial Library
□ 315 W Marion Ave., Nashville, GA
31639

Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management

April 15, 2025
(Toccoa)

Region C Healthcare Coalition Meeting

May 6, 2025
(Coweta)

Region E Healthcare Coalition Meeting

May 9, 2025
(Piedmont Athens Regional)



TOOLS & RESOURCES

GeorgiaDisaster.info

Ready.gov

[GEMA's Preparedness Page](#)

Prepare.UGA.edu

DPH Emergency Preparedness & Response



DBHDD

SAMHSA Ready
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

GHC911
Georgia Healthcare Coalitions



American Red Cross

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, 2025, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

Actions Necessary Upon Termination or Suspension of a DBHDD Community Services Provider, 04-119

Actions Necessary Upon Voluntary Closure or Voluntary Suspension of Services of a DBHDD Community Services Provider, 04-121

DBHDD Abbreviations and Acronyms, 04-112

Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112

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

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 Issue Management System (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 Manager

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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