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## Training Announcements

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Learning and Talent Acquisition, 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](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).



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

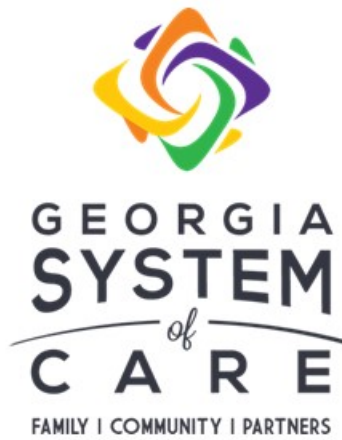
**Encouraging and Supporting Self Advocacy**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026, 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

Join us for a focused training designed for professionals supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across Georgia. This session will strengthen your understanding of self-advocacy and equip you with practical tools to foster independence and empowerment.

**Training Objectives:**

- Understand Self-Advocacy: Explore what self-advocacy is and why it is essential for promoting autonomy for individuals with IDD.
- Elevate Your Role: Learn how professionals play a critical role in nurturing and supporting self-advocacy skills.
- Apply Practical Strategies: Gain actionable techniques and resources you can use daily to encourage confident, self-directed decision-making.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professional***



## SOCA Call for Exhibitors

**Submission Deadline:  
Friday April 3, 2026**

The 19th Annual Georgia System of Care Academy (SOCA) conference is scheduled for June 3-5, 2026, at the Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The theme this year is **Collaborate. Cultivate. Celebrate.**

**During Wednesday, June 3rd only**, the SOCA conference will offer exhibitors valuable space to showcase their organization's services!

Exhibiting is an excellent opportunity to introduce your organization and services to over 400 conference attendees.

For more information, visit the SOCA Call for Exhibitors website. It includes details on the intended audience, SOCA Exhibitor benefits, and instructions on submitting your proposal.

**You are invited to submit your workshop proposal by or before the Friday, April 3, 2026 deadline at: <https://cvent.me/mRO9Xm>**

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## NOW/COMP Waiver Services Training: Now Available in Relias

latest news

**In collaboration with IntellectAbility, DBHDD is making it easier than ever to learn about select NOW/COMP waiver services.**

Effective eLearn courses are now available in Relias through the following targeted tracks:

Track 1:

- Overview of Georgia's COMP and NOW Waiver Services

Track 2:

- Regional Office Staff: Roles and Responsibilities
- Regional Office Staff: Clarifying Waiver Practices

Track 3:

- Support Coordination and Intensive Support Coordination Services: Roles & Responsibilities
- Support Coordination and Intensive Support Coordination Services: Clarifying Waiver Practices and Building Effective Skills

Track 4a:

- Provider Administrators: Roles and Responsibilities
- Provider Administrators: Common Challenges

Track 4b:

- Direct Support Professionals: Roles and Responsibilities
- Direct Support Professionals: Common Misunderstandings

Email [Relias.admin@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Relias.admin@dbhdd.ga.gov) to gain access!

Click on the Training Flyer below to learn more.

[View & Share the NOW/COMP Services Training Flyer Now!](#)

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## DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training

This training is only required for individuals who are becoming a **"New" Participant Direction (PD) Representative (Employer of Record)** for a waiver participant utilizing Participant Direction under the NOW/COMP waiver. Completing this training is a requirement before Participant-Direction services may begin. Each session will be conducted via Webex video conferencing online.

This training prepares "New" PD Representatives (Employers of Record) to begin Participant-Direction by reviewing:

- Role and Responsibilities of the PD Representative/Employer of Record
- Covered and non-covered services under NOW and COMP
- Employer authority and accountability

The "New" PD Representative (Employer of Record) is the person who will:

- Hire Participant-Direction staff and/or service vendors
- Supervise and manage staff
- Approve employee time and vendors service invoices
- Ensure waiver rules and followed
- Be legally responsible for Participant-Direction services

**\*If you are not the person who will serve as the "New" PD Representative (Employer of Record), this training is not intended for you.**

Registrations submitted by individuals outside of the intended audience will not be approved to attend.

All "New" PD Representatives/Employers that attend the training must sign a Memo of Understanding (MOU) and complete an Attestation form in order to begin self directing. Links to the required documents will be included in your registration confirmation email. (check your spam/junk mail, please) These documents must be completed and returned **within 3 business days** after attending the training. Failure to submit required documents within the required timeframe will delay the start of Participant Direction services.

**April Training Dates: [Click here to register!](#)**

- April 16, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- April 29, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

**May Training Dates: [Click here to register!](#)**

- May 6, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- May 11, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- May 19, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

### **Intended Audience**

**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.**

## **Person-Centered Thinking: Part 2 Training Available Now!**

**This virtual, one-day Person-Centered Thinking Training is the follow-up training to the Person-Centered Thinking eLearn course.**



**Helps DD Providers  
meet DBHDD  
training requirements!\***



### **FREE Person-Centered Thinking Training Now Available to GA Provider Staff!**

IntellectAbility, in collaboration with DBHDD, is providing free Person-Centered Thinking Training available to all GA provider staff. This training is now open! See below for more information and registration details.

#### **About the Training**

Person-Centered Thinking Training consists of two-parts:

**Part 1:** 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. Information to join the selected training day will be sent after the registration is approved.
4. To receive the full Person-Centered Thinking Training, both Part 1 and 2 must be successfully completed.
5. The learner will receive a certificate for each training part.

**If you have already completed Part 1, scan  
the QR code to register for Part 2!**



\*DBHDD Provider Manual, Part II, Section 1, item E. "Adequate and Competent Staff (Critical)", item 15, page 24.  
DBHDD Provider Manual, Part II, Section 1, item E. "Adequate and Competent Staff (Critical)", item 13b(i), page 22.

Please be sure that you have completed the PCT eLearn course BEFORE the registration deadline. If you do not complete the PCT eLearn course before the registration deadline, your registration will be denied.

If you have questions about this training and how to get started, email:  
[PCSupport@ReplacingRisk.com](mailto:PCSupport@ReplacingRisk.com)

[Register Now!](#)

[View & Share the PCT Part 2 Training Flyer Now!](#)

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**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**The Georgia Learning Community's**  
**16th Annual Georgia Gathering**

**September 10-11, 2026**  
**Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA**

The Georgia Learning Community is pleased to announce that the 16th Annual Georgia Gathering will take place at Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA on September 10-11, 2026. This year's theme is ***Our Life Canvas: Painting the Future Together***. Please save the date and stay tuned for additional details, which will be forthcoming.



## Featured Article: From our Partners at DCH



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

Dear Georgia Medicaid Members & Providers:

**PLEASE NOTE:** DCH has updated Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) broker assignments for the Central, Southwest, and East regions. Effective April 1, 2026, Modivcare will no longer provide NEMT services covered by Medicaid in these regions.

**Starting April 1, 2026, Verida will be providing transportation to medical services covered by Medicaid to ALL Georgia regions.**

To schedule transportation for services on or after April 1, 2026, Medicaid members can contact **Verida** beginning March 18, 2026, to schedule rides to medical services covered by Medicaid. Remember, in most cases, transportation must be scheduled at least three (3) business days in advance, not including the day of the appointment.

Please review the full memo below for additional details, including booking instructions, contact information, requirements, and more!

[View & Share the DCH Verida Memo Now!](#)

## DBHDD Regional Field Operations

### Regional Community Collaboratives: April 2026 Meeting Schedule

AVAILABLE NOW

#### What is a Regional Community Collaborative (RCC)?

RCCs are facilitated in all six (6) DBHDD Regions by regional teams and other members of the collaborative. It is a membership of stakeholders by invitation that minimally include our community providers, individuals with lived experience, and community partners (i.e., law enforcement partners, area hospital staff, nonprofit organizations, local government, area businesses, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, professional organizations, associations and citizens) who share ideas, expertise and resources to meet the needs of their community and/or region.

The purpose of the regional collaboratives is the same across all regions: To eliminate barriers to services and solution for gaps in the continuum at a community, regional and state level.

The Collaboratives ensure that participants are effective in:

- Communicating
- Educating partners
- Solution focused discussions
- Network/relationship building
- Resource sharing and development

For a list of the upcoming April 2026 Regional Community Collaborative (RCC) Meetings, please click the button below.

[View the April 2026 RCC Meeting Schedule Now!](#)

## DBHDD Policy Information

### Policy Updates

Since March 1, 2026, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

[Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112](#)

[CSU and BHCC: Transportation, 01-345](#)

[CSU and BHCC: Sanctions, Penalties, and Enforcement, 01-348](#)

[Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201](#)

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

## Office of Provider Relations

### Question for your Provider Relations Team?

The **Provider Inquiry Management System Plus (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 Inquiry Management System Plus \(PIMS+\)](#)

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  
[support@dbhddpims.zendesk.com](mailto:support@dbhddpims.zendesk.com).



## BE WELL



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