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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, is currently offering virtual trainings. Listed below are those currently scheduled. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).



- [Providing Culturally Responsive Care for Behavioral Health in Georgia](#)

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

I/DD Statewide Provider Meeting

August 11, 2022
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](#).

For any questions, please email DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All I/DD Provider Agencies are required to have a representative in attendance at the I/DD Statewide Provider Meetings.

**I/DD PROVIDER MEETING
AGENDA**

Featured Article

**Office of Incident
Management & Compliance**

Criminal History Records

This article outlines information related to the fingerprint-based background check process. Please read in full and share with relevant staff responsible for assisting in the hiring process for your agency.



reminder

One area of challenge during the pandemic has been the availability of locations to complete fingerprints for required criminal background checks; as such, DBHDD offered a temporary and time-limited allowance of an attestation if no fingerprint location was available in the area. As of this month, there are 106 open fingerprint locations across the state of Georgia.

Accordingly:

- Attestations asking to waive the fingerprint requirement will not be accepted if there are fingerprint locations available near the applicant or agency.
- If a fingerprint location is now available, providers are encouraged to have employees (who formerly completed an attestation) take steps to complete the fingerprint-based background check as soon as possible.

When the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends:

- All employees who signed the Applicant Attestation must complete a fingerprint-based background check within sixty (60) days.
- The provider is responsible for sending any person who signed the Attestation for a fingerprint-based background check.
- If a fingerprint location is now available, providers are encouraged to have these employees complete the fingerprint-based background check as soon as possible. You do not have to wait for the PHE to end to do so.

Information about navigating open fingerprint locations, applicant registration, CHRIS eligibility letters, and registry checks are available at the link below to assist you in meeting these DBHDD requirements.

[Additional Information and Helpful Links](#)

DBHDD Policy Information

Since July 1, 2022 DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

[COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications - 7/21/2022](#)

[CCP Standard 18 - Suicide Prevention, 01-218](#)

[CCP Standard 19 - Housing Access, 01-219](#)

[CMP Standard 8 - Required Staffing, 01-238](#)

[High Utilization Management \(HUM\), 01-223](#)

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](#).

Division of Behavioral Health

Memorandum Regarding Telemedicine & Telephonic Service Allowances



The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' (DBHDD's) would like to notify providers of the upcoming policy changes and related practice guidance regarding ongoing telemedicine and telephonic service allowances for behavioral health services following the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

For more information regarding these service allowances click the link below.

[TELEMEDICINE & TELEPHONIC SERVICE ALLOWANCES
MEMO](#)

Division of Developmental Disabilities

I/DD Supported Employment Regional Gardens Meeting

Wednesday, August 17th, 2022
11:30 am to 1:00 pm



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.

WISE has been instrumental in helping Washington State become number 1 in Supported Employment and is helping Georgia to meet its Big Hairy Audacious Goal to grow to 48.9% in Competitive Integrated Employment by 2025. We hope you will join us!

Gardens meetings will focus on several topics including: I/DD Supported Employment policy, the Gardens transition plan, and planning for the 2nd Annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration in October.

[Click here to register.](#)

Comprehensive Supports Waiver Renewal

**A Memorandum from Commissioners
Caylee Noggle and Judy Fitzgerald**



We are pleased to announce the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently approved the state's renewal application for the 1915(c) Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver for individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities.

The renewal of the COMP waiver paves the way for an array of service enrichments including the addition of a telehealth option for several services, a new service—Assistive Technology—and other service enhancements designed to benefit the thousands of Georgians receiving COMP services and their families.

This necessary federal approval also serves as a prerequisite for other changes that will be submitted to CMS via waiver amendment; most notably, we will seek to adopt the rate increases currently being operationalized via the Appendix K. An upcoming COMP amendment will incorporate the 5 percent rate increases from the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill and a 2 percent rate increase from Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations bill.

DBHDD and DCH will continue to provide updates. We know these are crucial services for individuals and families, and we deeply value our partnerships at the individual, family, community, state, and federal levels. For more information on the COMP waiver renewal, [click here](#).

MEMORANDUM

DBHDD Announcements

FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

DBHDD Service Allowances Due To COVID-19



On July 15, 2022, the United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) renewed its determination that the national **Public Health Emergency (PHE)** continues to exist. Please be assured that we continue to closely monitor state and national guidance. DBHDD will notify providers, as timely as possible, of any changes to allowances related to COVID-19 or to the PHE declaration. Providers should reference the policies linked below to find the latest guidance related to COVID-19 modifications.

Community Behavioral Health Providers (BH): The changes made in the DBHDD and Medicaid programs due to COVID-19 are expected to remain in effect through the duration of the national PHE. For the temporary modifications made to BH policies, please refer to the DBHDD policy [COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Behavioral Health Services Policy Modification-7/1/2021](#).

Community Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Providers (I/DD): This PHE renewal enables several temporary policy changes, such as the Appendix K, to extend for up to six months post the PHE. For the temporary modifications made to I/DD policies, refer to the DBHDD policy [COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications-7/1/2021](#).



Georgia's COVID-19 Emotional Support Line is Here to Help!

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is operating the Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line to assist people who have been emotionally, physically, or financially impacted by COVID-19. The Emotional Support Line is free, confidential, and anonymous. Trained mental health professionals are available to provide a "listening ear" to Georgians who need emotional support and referrals to resources in their communities.

This service is made possible through funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as a component of DBHDD's Georgia Recovery Project for COVID-19. The Georgia Recovery Project began on May 1, 2020, and, in addition to the Emotional Support Line, the program funds outreach through teams based in DBHDD's six regions.

The Emotional Support Line is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and can be reached by calling or texting (866) 399-8938.

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 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.



BE WELL



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