

**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, 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).



## 2024 Teen Summit: Hope Changes Everything

### Registration open!

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Announces the 2024 Teen Summit: Hope Changes Everything on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at Wild Adventures Theme Park. Join us for a day of hope and good vibes as we hear from inspiring speakers and see breakout musical performances.

[Click here](#) for more information on this event and to access the registration link when it's available.



## IDD Statewide Provider Meetings

**August 13th - 15th, 2024**  
**9:00 am to 12:30 pm**



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting in-person and virtual Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Statewide Provider meetings. The IDD Provider meetings are held every quarter. This quarter's agenda is available at the link below.

[Click here to register!](#)

- August 13th - UGA Tifton Campus Conf Center - 15 R D C Rd, Tifton, GA 31794
- August 14th - Anderson Conference Center - 5171 Eisenhower Pkwy suite D, Macon,

## August IDD Statewide Provider Meeting Agenda

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

### Transformational Change: Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule



**August 6, 2024 - Duluth**

**August 19, 2024 - Macon**

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is pleased to offer a one-day interactive workshop for DD service 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.

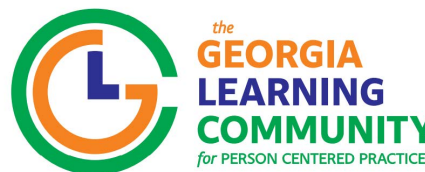
The Transformation Change workshop will be offered multiple times across the state as an opportunity to learn and gain ideas to shift HCBS from a systems-framework to a more individualized framework where the person who uses services is at the center of his/her life, determining preferences, having autonomy, 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!](#)

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

## The Georgia Gathering

**September 5 - 6, 2024**  
**Unicoi State Park**  
**Helen, Ga**



The 2024 Georgia Gathering is just over a month away. This year's theme is “**Turning Our Possibilities Into Reality**”. Don't miss the chance to hear from our special guest, Dr. Alonzo Kelly, and participate in everyone's favorite activities like karaoke, the bonfire and breakout sessions with some excellent presenters!

*\*\*Deadline to reserve a room at Unicoi under the special rate is August 9th.*

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

## CheckPT Training for Community Providers

August 2024



The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Office of Incident Management and Compliance is pleased to announce the CheckPT Training for Community Providers.

We are working toward the launch of CheckPT, a streamlined application designed to simplify and expedite the fingerprinting background check process. CheckPT will allow providers and applicants to move more quickly through the approval process. The official launch date is still being determined by GBI but is expected to be this summer.

Comprehensive training sessions are being offered both virtually and in-person prior to the launch of CheckPT. **Providers only need to attend one training session – virtual or in-person.** The virtual session will be recorded and made available online to access at your convenience.

[Click here to register and for more information!](#)

***The intended audience for this training is DBHDD Community Provider Network staff whose responsibilities are obtaining applicants fingerprint background checks and reviewing eligibility letters.***

Live Virtual Training	<b>August 28, 2024</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm	<b>Registration Deadline</b> <b>August 23, 2024. at</b> <b>5:00pm</b>
In-Person Training	<b>August 29, 2024</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm  Middle GA State University (Math 101 Auditorium) 100 University Parkway Macon, GA 31206	<b>Registration Deadline</b> <b>August 23, 2024, at</b> <b>5:00pm</b>
Recorded Training	This training will be made available on DBHDD's website after the online training is complete and ahead of go-live.	

**Please note:** If you register for the in-person training, this is a hands-on training. Please bring a laptop or tablet to participate. If you do not have a device available to bring, a limited number of laptops will be provided but are not guaranteed.

Both training sessions will cover the same material, with the in-person session allowing more time for questions and breaks.

Each training will walk providers through the new process for managing fingerprint background checks and maintaining your employee roster in the CheckPT application. In addition to learning how to use CheckPT to approve and manage employee applications, attendees will also learn how applicants will create profiles and submit applications.

Attendees will have the opportunity to work in the demo environment during the training if desired.

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### **Benefits of CheckPT:**

- **Faster Approvals:** You will no longer have to submit signed registration forms on behalf of applicants. With CheckPT, you'll have the power to directly approve applications, streamlining the approval process.
- **Improved Status Visibility:** Stay informed every step of the way with notifications sent to you regarding application status and eligibility determinations. You'll have visibility into applicant progress, right up to the moment fingerprints are taken, and you will be able to see their eligibility status.
- **Simplified System:** Enjoy the convenience of a user-friendly portal for registration and application management, eliminating the need for multiple accounts. CheckPT will be replacing CHRIS and provide improved communication and access.

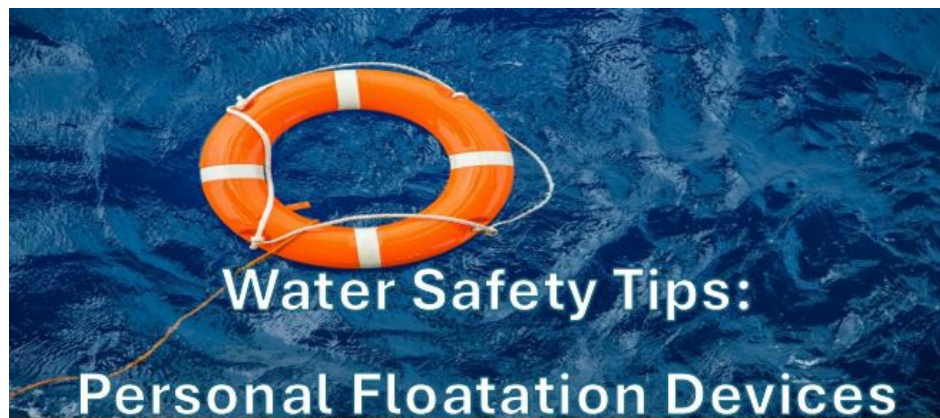
These are just a few of the benefits our transition to CheckPT will bring. We are genuinely excited about the positive impact that CheckPT will have on streamlining yours and our processes and providing a better experience for all. Your partnership and patience throughout this transition are greatly appreciated.

Stay tuned for further updates and announcements regarding the launch of CheckPT.

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## **DBHDD Announcement**

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This month in DBHDD's ongoing series of water safety tips, the focus turns to the importance of floatation devices for all varieties of water adventures.

The [Georgia Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR) outlines the requirements for the use of personal floatation devices for users of personal watercraft, kayaks, and those riding on a boat.



DNR requires individuals driving or riding on Personal Watercrafts (PWC) such as Jet Skis, Sea-Doos, etc “must wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device which is properly fitted and fastened. Inflatable Type V PFDs are not approved for PWC” ([www.gadnr.org](http://www.gadnr.org)).

It is also required there be enough personal floatation devices, which are properly sized/fitted (not riding higher than the ears or mouth of the wearer) for each person when riding on a boat.

It is strongly encouraged for individuals who cannot swim (or strong enough to swim in a rescue situation) to always wear a personal floatation device when riding on a boat, canoe, or kayak



Many individuals swimming or wading in pools, lakes, streams, and other water play areas may feel more secure when wearing some sort of floatation device, but it is important to make sure the devices are approved and appropriate for its intended use.

There are also people who have a difficult time wearing or feeling comfortable in personal floatation devices due to sensory challenges or previous experiences with ill-fitting products. Items such as novelty floats, pool noodles, and water wings are intended for recreational purposes only and not for life preserving measures.

It is important to make sure the individual’s personal floatation device is properly fitted, both size and weight limits, supports the level of swimming ability, and is comfortable to wear for extended periods of time.

Luckily, there are a variety of approved personal floatation devices on the market today and ones which are specifically designed to support individuals with disabilities and sensory challenges. Some individuals may find certain designs and materials difficult to wear and it may take some time to find just the right fit. In the end it is worth the time, effort, and money to ensure a person’s safety and enjoyment when in and around water.



[Photo credit: [Lifejacket-Adapted](#)]

## Division of Behavioral Health

### Attention Behavioral Health Providers!

#### Staff Credentialing Worksheet Tool



Providers are encouraged to take advantage of the Georgia Collaborative ASO Staff Credentialing Worksheet tool found at the link below.

#### Why?

The Georgia Collaborative ASO reported that "**staff credentials not supported by documentation**" was the 3rd highest billing discrepancy reason for FY23 Behavioral Health Quality Reviews (BHQRs).

In FY24 (through May 2024) "**staff credentials not supported by documentation**" is the top BHQR billing discrepancy reason.

#### How can it help?

The Georgia Collaborative ASO has developed a Staff Credentialing Worksheet tool based on the DBHDD [Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers](#) training requirements. This tool gives providers the opportunity to utilize the worksheet for documentation of staff credentialing. Proper utilization of the tool can offer increased compliance, potentially contributing to higher BHQR billing score outcomes.

#### How is it used?

1. Click on the link below to open and save the Staff Credentialing Worksheet.
2. Forward the Staff Credentialing Worksheet to team members who manage this process.
3. Click on the "Instructions" tab of the worksheet for specific utilization information.
4. Click on the "All Staff" tab of the worksheet for Staff Credentialing requirements.
5. Click on the "Paraprofessional (PP)-Supervisee/Trainees (S/T)" tab of the worksheet for requirements related to those specific staff members.
6. Contact the Georgia Collaborative ASO for any questions at [gaquality@carelon.com](mailto:gaquality@carelon.com).

[BH Provider Staff Credentialing Worksheet](#)

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

**CCP Standard 2 - Crisis Management, 01-202**

**CCP Standard 3 - Transitioning of Individuals in Crisis, 01-203**

**CCP Standard 4 - Engagement in Care, 01-204**

**CCP Standard 5 - Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Supports, 01-205**

**CCP Standard 9 - Administrative & Fiscal Structure, 01-209**

**CCP Standard 10 - Required Staffing, 01-210**

**CCP Standard 13 - Administrative Services Organization and Audit Compliance, 01-213**

**CCP Standard 18 - Suicide Prevention, 01-218**

**CCP Standard 19 - Housing Access, 01-219**

**CCP Standard 21 - Community Coordination and Engagement, 01-221**

**CCP Standard 22 – Evidence Based Treatment, 01-222**

**High Utilization Management (HUM), 01-223**

**CMP Standard 1 - Administrative Infrastructure, 01-231**

**CMP+ Standard 1 - Administrative Infrastructure, 01-231a**

**CMP Standard 2 - Accreditation, Certification and Licensing, 01-232**

**CMP Standard 3 - Access to Services, 01-233**

**CMP Standard 4 - Engagement in Care, 01-234**

**CMP Standard 6 - Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Supports, 01-236**

**Family Support Services for Developmental Disability Services - All Procedures, 02-401**

**Family Support Services Program Application Process, 02-407**

**Family Support Services Program: Enrollment and Disenrollment Process, 02-408**

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 selecting the "**Submit a Question to Provider Relations**" tile on the DBHDD homepage.

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**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).



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## BE WELL



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities | 200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E. West Tower | Atlanta, GA 30334 US

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