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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](#).



- [Facilitating Healing of Family Violence, Anger and Substance Abuse in Treatment](#)
- [I/DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Webinar](#)

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

I/DD Statewide Provider Meeting

February 9, 2023
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.](#)

[I/DD Statewide Provider Meeting
Agenda](#)

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 Training Opportunities

The Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD present the following training opportunities for

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Providers. Please click on the title of each training to register.

Putting Person Centered Practices into Action: Exploring the Community - Webinar
Thursday, February 2, 2023, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

This virtual webinar will demonstrate how we can support an individual in developing critical community connections by identifying and using his/her gifts and preferences. Participants will learn how to conduct a "Community Brainstorm" exercise to help the individual and his/her support team to get fresh ideas and options for community connections and employment.

Goal Tracking and Goal Progress - Webinar
Thursday, February 2, 2023, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

This webinar course will share methods to track, assess and document progress, or lack thereof, for goals and objectives over time, so that needed or requested adjustments can be made. The validity and measurability of Individual Service Plan (ISP) goals will be discussed, and guidance on how to determine whether progress is made with various data collection methods will be reviewed.

Conducting Quarterly Reviews - Webinar
Monday, February 6, 2023, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Participants will learn how to use the quarterly review process to track and trend data and report on progress. The session will focus on reviewing key elements of the quarterly review process and how to involve the individuals in the process.

Capturing the Individual's Preferences in Documentation - Webinar
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This course will explore how to gather and document the individual's preferences, wishes, hopes, and dreams for potential Individual Service Plan (ISP) goals. The course will focus on how to review previous documentation about the individual, discuss how talking with the individual and those who know them best can provide Person Centered details to include in the documentation. Participants will learn how to use Person Centered Thinking tools to enhance documentation practices.

Day-to-Day Person-Centered Supports:
What Every New DSP Needs to Know - Webinar
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

This virtual webinar session is designed for new Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and other professionals in the field of developmental disability interested in learning basic key concepts about supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will find this webinar useful since it reviews and explains key basics to routine interactions in providing person-centered support. Participants will learn the basics of coaching, including how to use the prompt sequence, how to promote individuals to become more independent, and how to use praise. The session will also include an interactive exercise and discussions about the importance of the using People First language in both the written and spoken word.

How to Develop a Risk Mitigation Plan - Webinar
Monday, February 13, 2023, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

In this webinar, participants will learn ways to use a person-centered approach to help analyze and manage risk to individuals while still supporting them to participate in their desired activities. This training will include information on how to develop and implement a Risk Mitigation Plan to help ensure individuals participate in activities safely. Examples of various Risk Mitigation Plans will be shared.

Please note these trainings are targeted for I/DD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals and Planning List Administrators.

16th Annual
SYSTEM OF CARE
ACADEMY Conference



READY. SET. CONNECT!

DETAILS BELOW!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DBHDDLEARNING@DBHDD.GA.GOV



WHEN: June 7-9, 2023
WHERE: Evergreen Lakeside Resort
REGISTRATION COMING MAY 2023!

READY. **SET.** **CONNECT.**

Featured Article

Public Health Emergency Update

This week, multiple news outlets are reporting the National Public Health Emergency (PHE) is anticipated to end on May 11, 2023. This announcement aligns with the administration's previous commitments to give at least 60 days' notice prior to the termination of the PHE.



The Federal Office of Management and Budget has stated, "The COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency (PHE) were declared by the Trump Administration in 2020. They are currently set to expire on March 1 and April 11, respectively. At present, the Administration's plan is to extend the emergency declarations to May 11, and then end both emergencies on that date".

Please note that the Appendix K allowances are aligned with the PHE and based on the current information noted above will expire on May 11, 2023. Importantly, the flexibilities and enhancements which are supported by the Appendix K for the NOW and COMP Medicaid Waiver programs **will remain in effect for up to 6 months after the end of PHE.**

For both Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities services, DBHDD has been

working in anticipation to support the unwinding of the PHE. Please be assured we will continue to collaborate with our state and federal partners to support the provider network and ultimately the people we all serve.

We will continue to share additional information as it is available.

DBHDD Announcement



It is now easier to connect people in need of social services and find help with www.findhelpga.org!

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is excited to partner with Find Help Georgia. This partnership not only allows our provider network to access a comprehensive resource database but also gives individuals and families access to community resources. Whether it's financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, help to pay for childcare, job training, and other **free or reduced-cost** services, needed resources can be found on FindHelpGA.org and the mobile app found on the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple Store](#).

When helping others find the resources they need, we encourage you to use www.findhelpga.org, an easy-to-use virtual resource center. There are a variety of ways to search for resources:

- Online at FindHelpGA.org (available in more than 100 languages)
- Calling a Find Help Georgia resource specialist at 1-800-244-5373, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm
- Web chat at FindHelpGA.org (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)
- Mobile app ([Google Play Store](#) or [Apple Store](#)).

For Providers

We encourage providers to visit the website and take advantage of training to maximize the tools which can benefit your organization and the individuals you serve. Organizations can add and manage their listing on Find Help Georgia, so it is up-to-date and easy for help seekers to find. They can also give and receive direct referrals as well as use a variety of other tools which help in the social care workflow process.

We encourage any individual or organization connecting individuals to community resources to attend a free Find Help Georgia workshop, where you can become a Find Help Certified Navigator. Register for an upcoming training at <https://findhelpga.org/about/#Training>.

Upcoming Training Dates:

- February 7 (Tuesday) 1:00pm to 3:00pm
- February 27 (Monday) 1:00pm to 3:00pm
- March 23 (Thursday) 9:30am to 11:30am

Since January 1, 2023, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

Transition Planning Process for Individuals on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Ready to Discharge List and Follow-Up for Individuals Discharged from the State Hospital, 01-507

NOW and COMP Waivers for Community Developmental Disability Services, 02-1202

Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Disaster Recovery Requirements for Community Providers, 04-102

Individuals' Rights, 24-104

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](#).

Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

Disaster Relief Centers Are Open!

We are here to provide support for those impacted by the tornadoes which went through Butts, Henry, Jasper, Meriwether, Newton, Spalding and Troup counties. Disaster Relief Centers are opening up throughout the region and provide face-to-face assistance for those looking to apply for funding or need help being connected to community resources. Addresses for the shelters currently open on **1/27/2023** are:

Spalding County

Spalding Senior Center
885 Memorial Drive
Griffin, GA

Henry County (Mobile DRC)

Locust Grove Recreation Center
10 Cleveland St.
Locust Grove, GA 30248

Butts County

Daughtry Park / Recreation Center
576 Earnest Biles Drive
Jackson, GA 30233

Jasper County (Mobile DRC) – Estimated Opening— 1/30

New Rocky Creek Baptist Church
190 Rocky Creek Road
Mansfield Ga

Troup County – Estimated Opening—1/31

William J Griggs Community Center
716 Glenn Robertson Drive
LaGrange, GA 30241

Meriwether County – Estimated Opening – 1/31

West Georgia Technical College Meriwether Site
17529 Roosevelt Hwy
Greenville, GA



Fall in Love with Emergency Preparedness: Build your valentine an emergency kit!

Start with something to put all your supplies in which is easy to transport, like a backpack or tote. Then fill it with things like:

- Nonperishable snacks (granola bars, snack bars, peanut butter, canned meats like Spam and tuna)
- Water bottles (a big jug of water and individual reusable bottles for kids)
- Flashlights
- First Aid Kit (get fun bandages for children)
- Pet supplies (toys, extra leashes, collars, extra treats/ food, bowls)
- Battery-powered handheld toys, cards, puzzles
- Extra clothes/ pajamas

Remember: Don't take things out of the emergency kit without replacing it!

Tools & Resources:

[Coping with a Disaster/ Traumatic Event](#)

[Disaster Distress Helpline](#)

[How to Apply for FEMA Assistance](#)

[Parent Guidelines for Helping Children After a Tornado](#)

[Teacher Guidelines for Helping Children After a Tornado](#)

[Tips for U.S. Religious Leaders: Disaster Mental Health](#)

Resources for Providers

[Preparing your Health for Tornadoes](#)

[OSHA Tornado Preparedness](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the DBHDD Office of Disaster Mental Health Services at kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov or 404-416-2829.

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
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For Provider Relations inquiries,
please contact us at
DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov.



BE WELL



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