

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

- **IDD Participant Direction New Enrollment**

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



IDD Statewide Provider Meetings

February 6th - 8th, 2024
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

reminder

The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting in-person Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Statewide Provider meetings. The IDD Provider meetings will be scheduled every quarter in 3 different locations to accommodate those in the north, south and metro Atlanta areas.

[Click here to register!](#)

- **February 6th** - UGA Tifton Campus Conf Center - Tifton
- **February 7th** - Anderson Conference Center - Macon
- **February 8th** - Douglasville Conference Center - Douglasville

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

**IDD Statewide Provider Meeting
Agenda**



Intellectual and Developmental Disability

Provider Training Opportunities

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

How to Locate Free and Low-Cost Activities in Your Community **Friday, February 9, 2024, 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

This virtual webinar session is designed to provide Direct Support Professionals and provider staff the tools on how to search and locate low-cost activities in the community. Participants will learn the benefits of using an interest survey and how to match individuals to their desired affordable activities in their community.

Learning about Service Descriptions: Community Living Services, Host Home and Community Residential Alternative **Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am**

In this webinar learning session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of service descriptions. A detailed overview of service descriptions (Community Living and Host Home services) will be shared.

Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals and Planning List Administrators. For any questions or registration issues, please contact GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com.

The Secret to Success **for DSPs - Segment 2**

February 28, 2024
9:00 am to 12:00 pm



DON'T
MISS IT!

The DBHDD Behavioral Response Team (BRT) is a team of Subject Matter Experts who have advanced knowledge in trainings related to Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Child & Adolescent, and Substance Abuse.

BRT is pleased to invite Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities provider staff to "The Secret to Success for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Segment 2" workshop on February 28, 2024, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **This training will be held in-person at Southwestern Campus in Building 510/Staff Development at 137 Hawthorne Drive in Thomasville, Georgia.**

Topics Include:

- Delivering instructions,
- the three levels of personal space, and
- staff emotional reactions.

If you wish to enroll, please email Calvin Fisher at Calvin.Fisher@dbhdd.ga.gov or Kevin Morrow at Kevin.Morrow@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Featured Article

An Important Message from our
Partners at DCH

Spring Medicaid Fair

The Department of Community Health (DCH) and Gainwell Technologies encourage you to save the date for our Spring Face to Face/Virtual Medicaid Fair!

Macon Marriot City Center
Thursday, March 21, 2024
240 Coliseum Dr, Macon, GA 31217



The Medicaid Fair will offer important updates on emergent issues by DCH leadership and several break-out sessions covering a variety of topics. Please stay tuned for additional details. Registration information will be posted soon.

Want to help shape our agenda?

To ensure our planned break-out sessions (including time for questions and answers) address relevant topics for you, please submit your suggested breakout topics to GeorgiaMedicaidFair@gainwelltechnologies.com no later than Friday, February 9, 2024. The agenda will be developed based on your feedback.

Do you need more information about the Macon Marriot City Center?

For location and direction please visit the Macon Marriot City Center website at: [Hotel in Macon, GA](#) | [Downtown Macon, GA, Hotel](#) | [Macon Marriott City Center](#)

Thank you for your continued participation in the Georgia Medicaid program. We look forward to having you attend our Spring Face to Face/Virtual Medicaid Fair on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in Macon, Georgia.

DBHDD Announcement

Important Message from Commissioner Tanner

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Commissioner Kevin Tanner recently announced promotions and appointments within DBHDD's senior leadership team.



Commissioner Tanner has promoted Monica Patel to the position of Assistant Commissioner of Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer. Allen Morgan and Jennifer Dunn have been appointed to the newly created positions of Deputy Assistant Commissioners for Field Operations.

[Read more here.](#)

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Looking to Expand Your Service Array?

NEW Assistive Technology Service

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDD) would like to remind all current IDD NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver Providers of the new Assistive Technology service. The final phases of service implementation are complete, and the kickoff of Assistive Technology service began in January 2024.

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT ...

We are in need of existing providers to expand services to include Assistive Technology. To begin the process of expanding your current IDD services with DBHDD to add Assistive Technology, refer to policy [Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701](#) for more information.

For more detailed information regarding Assistive Technology, please review Chapter 3500 of the NOW Part III manual and Chapter 3700 of the COMP Part III manual, in policy [Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201](#).

Assistive technology consists of any technology, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, which is used to maintain or improve functional capabilities of Individuals with disabilities by augmenting the Individual's strengths and/or providing an alternative mode of performing a task.

- The need for Assistive Technology must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.
- The need for adaptive equipment and assistive technology must be identified in the Individual Service Plan and approved by a qualified rehabilitation technician or engineer, occupational therapist, physical therapist, augmented communication therapist or other qualified professional whose signature indicates approval.

Assistive technology may include:

- Communication: Screen readers, display video magnifiers, screen magnification, large keyboards, navigation assistant, augmented and alternative communication, emotion recognition and speech to text.
- Personal Emergency Response System: smoke alarm with vibrating pad/flashing light.
- Accessibility Software: Alphanumeric, speech amplifiers, electronic speech aids/devices, motion activated electronic devices.
- Cognitive: memory aids (smart pen) and educational software.
- Education: computer accessibility, telecommunication screens, and voiceover.
- Home Automation: adaptive locks, motion sensors and audio messages.
- Medication Management: Telecare devices.

For more questions regarding Assistive Technology services please contact Lydia Whitehead at Lydia.Whitehead@dbhdd.ga.gov. Ms. Whitehead will also be available to discuss this new service at the upcoming IDD Statewide Provider Meetings at the dates below. [Click here to register](#).

- **February 6th - UGA Tifton Campus Conf Center - Tifton**
- **February 7th - Anderson Conference Center - Macon**
- **February 8th - Douglasville Conference Center - Douglasville**

Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

Winter Weather Readiness

Winter weather preparedness is important to ensure you are ready for cold and potentially challenging conditions. While Georgia doesn't see much snow, ice and fog are common hazards during the cooler months.

Here are some things to keep in your car, home, and office to be prepared for winter weather.



In your car:

- Blanket/ extra jacket
- Gloves
- Traction aid (sand or cat litter)
- Portable phone charger
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Non-perishable snacks
- Water bottles

In your home:

- Heating supplies
- Winter clothing
- Fire extinguisher
- **Emergency Plan**

In your office:

- Emergency food
- Backup power source
- **Communication plan**
- Umbrella
- Extra jacket/ gloves

Crisis Counseling Assistance & Training Program Updates



The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training program (CCP) helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through community outreach and access to mental health services. The program supports short-term interventions that help:

- disaster survivors understand their current situation and reactions to the problems caused or worsened by the disaster;
- reduce stress and provide emotional support;
- assist survivors in understanding their disaster recovery options;
- promote the use or development of coping strategies;
- connect survivors with other people or agencies who can help them to recover from the disaster.

Information below highlights the CCP assistance provided to Georgians through the Georgia Recovery Project.

DR-4685

Georgia Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds and Tornadoes

January 2023 – January 2024
Disaster Outreach Services: Primary Services

- Individual Crisis Counseling: 299
- Group Counseling/Public Education: 1,878
- Brief Educational/Supportive Contact: 1,737
- **Total: 3,844 total individuals served**

DR-4738

Hurricane Idalia

September 2023 - January 2024
Disaster Outreach Services: Primary Services

- Individual Crisis Counseling: 22
 - Group Counseling/Public Education: 0
 - Brief Educational/Supportive Contact: 156
 - **Total: 178 total individuals served**
-





UPCOMING EVENTS

Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults (GEPC)
February 1, 2024 @ 2:30pm

Critical Incident Stress Management – Assessing Individuals in Crisis
February 5-6, 2024
HPP Region B

Critical Incident Stress Management – Group Crisis Intervention
February 19-20, 2024
HPP Region C



TOOLS & RESOURCES



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 January 1, 2024, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disability Community Service Providers, 02-704

Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701

Family Support Services, Direct/Brokered Goods, and Services List and Protocols, 02-409

Confidentiality and HIPAA, 23-100

Confidentiality and HIPAA Privacy Complaints, 23-103

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

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



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

[Unsubscribe public.affairs@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:public.affairs@dbhdd.ga.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by publicaffairs@dbhdd.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!