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Training Announcements

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Talent Acquisition 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.



2nd Annual Co-Responder Teams Professional Development Conference
MANY ROLES, ONE GOAL. COLLABORATING FOR CARE, COMMITTED TO CHANGE.

Join Us!
February 25 - 27, 2026 | Peachtree City, GA

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 2026 Annual Co-Responder Teams Professional Development Conference

**February 25 - 27, 2026
Peachtree City, GA**

Please join us for the upcoming **2nd Annual Co-Responder Teams Professional Development Conference**, hosted by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Adult Mental Health. This year's theme is: **Many Roles, One Goal. Collaborating for Care, Committed to Change.**

When: February 25–27, 2026

- **Feb 25:** Pre-Conference G-PACT Training (Invitation Only)
- **Feb 26 & 27:** Conference Days

Where: Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center

Address: 2443 GA-54, Peachtree City, GA 30269

Registration is a pending approval process.

Please do not make travel plans until you receive an approval confirmation.

[Register Now!](#)

Conference Information

Who Should Attend?

- Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Community service boards, behavioral health professionals, criminal justice professionals, legislators, and other stakeholders
- Anyone interested in starting a Co-Responder Team



Why Attend?

- Network with co-responder teams statewide
- Collaborative brainstorming sessions
- Interactive workshops focused on engagement, resource coordination & strengthening co-response partnerships

How to Attend?

- General registration closes on February 13, 2026, or until capacity is reached.
- All registrations are PENDING APPROVAL until confirmed via email.

Visit our [FAQ page](#) for any questions you may have about the conference!

Hotel Lodging Information

Hotel Rate:

- \$173 per night
- \$5.00 Georgia hotel fee per night
- 8% occupancy tax (*Proof of tax exemption must be presented at check-in.*)

Important Lodging Notes:

- [Visit the Lodging page for details](#)
- Discounted room block ends February 3, 2026
- DBHDD staff - please follow the instructions provided on our Lodging page.

[Click Here to Book Your Discounted Room Before February 3, 2026](#)



Conference Patch Board

DBHDD would like to invite all our first responders to participate in our patch board. This is an opportunity to show the reach of Georgia's co-responder programs. We see your patches as carrying deep meaning as you face the most challenging situations, often as unsung heroes. Make sure to bring a department or unit patch to contribute to the board and represent your agency. Our hope is that the patch board will grow each year.

Need Help?

Registration assistance: 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:

Building Natural Supports and Social Capital
Thursday, February 5, 2026, 11:30AM - 12:30PM

This webinar is designed to provide IDD professionals and support coordinators with the knowledge and strategies to build natural supports and social capital for individuals with disabilities. Participants will learn about the importance of natural supports, how to identify and cultivate them, and ways to enhance social capital to improve the quality of life and community integration for people with disabilities.

Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, and Direct Support Professionals.

Incorporating Choice and Control
Friday, February 6, 2026, 9:30AM - 10:30AM

This webinar is designed to empower IDD providers in Georgia with the knowledge and skills to incorporate choice and control into the planning process for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will learn how to create person-centered plans that prioritize the preferences and autonomy of the individuals they support, ensuring that their voices are central to all decision-making processes.

Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, Case Managers, Nursing, Behavioral Specialists and Day and Residential Direct Support Professionals.

Using Discovery Tools to Learn What's Important to the Person
Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:30AM - 11:30AM

This webinar is designed for IDD professionals in Georgia to enhance their skills in using discovery tools to understand what is important to and for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Participants will learn how to effectively gather and utilize information to support person-centered planning and improve the quality of life for those they serve.

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

Promoting Autonomy in Daily Routines
Thursday, February 12, 2026, 1:00PM - 2:00PM

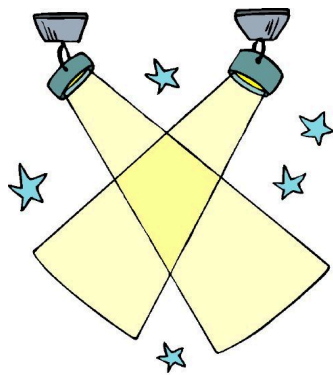
This training session is designed to equip IDD professionals with the knowledge and skills to promote autonomy in the daily routines of individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will learn strategies to empower individuals to make choices and take control of their daily activities, fostering independence and enhancing their quality of life.

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

Understanding the Rights of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:00AM - 10:00AM**

This training session is designed for direct support professionals and other professionals working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The session aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the rights of people with disabilities, empowering professionals with the knowledge and tools to advocate for and uphold these rights.

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



Person-Centered Thinking: Follow Up Training Now Available

**Training Dates Available
through March 2026**

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

In this one-day training, you'll be trained on the remaining person-centered thinking skills not covered in the PCT eLearn course. This training will be taught by a GA Learning Community PCT Trainer.

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.

As a reminder, this Person-Centered Thinking Training consists of two-parts:

Part 1: Complete 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. Your registration remains in a pending status until your eLearn course activities have been reviewed. Activities must be completed in earnest. Learners whose activities contain nonsensical entries will be asked to reanswer the areas before their registration is approved.
4. To receive the full credit for Person-Centered Thinking Training, both Part 1 and Part 2 must be successfully completed.
5. The learner will receive a certificate for each part of training.

Register Now!

Featured Article

Georgia's 2024 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey Results are in!



On behalf of DBHDD, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the provider agencies who participated in the **2024 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey**. Your involvement is essential to our shared mission of strengthening the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce.

While we are grateful for those who contributed, it is important to note that we saw **40% Provider agency participation** this year. To ensure our data truly reflects the diversity and scope of our provider network, **we need better representation in the upcoming survey cycle**. Our goal is to hear from every corner of the state to build the most accurate and powerful case for our workforce.

DSPs play a vital role in ensuring that individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) can live with dignity and connection in Georgia communities. When providers share insights on key elements such as DSP wages, benefits, and turnover rates, we can collectively create a clear picture of the IDD workforce landscape.

Moving forward, increasing our participation rate will be a top priority. We use this information to benchmark Georgia against national averages and guide policy decisions that shape the future of IDD services. Higher representation means more reliable data for legislation, advocacy, recruitment, and service quality improvements.

Thank you for your partnership in helping Georgia plan for a stronger, more inclusive future. Please see the "2024 State of the Workforce at a Glance" snapshot below.

Sincerely, Ron Wakefield, IDD Division Director

2024 State of the Workforce at a Glance

DBHDD Regional Field Operations

Regional Community Collaboratives: February 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 February 2026 Regional Community Collaborative (RCC) Meetings, please click the button below.

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

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Person-Centered Coaches Now Available at DBHDD Regional Field Offices



reminder

DBHDD is excited to announce the addition of Person-Centered Coaches, who are available now at each of the six DBHDD Regional Field Offices (RFOs).

To further this work, IntellectAbility is extending an offer to Georgia DBHDD Providers to have people within their organization trained on Person-Centered services. Additional information is available on the [IntellectAbility Georgia Coach Training webpage](#).

Visit the webpage above or scan the QR code below to Register Now!

A 10% discount is available to all Georgia providers for a limited time!



**Regional
Person-Centered
Coaches are now in
place across Georgia.**

It's time to train your own Coaches, as they will now have a counterpart in the Regional Offices.

A **10% discount** is available to all Georgia providers for a limited time!



Register Now
for Feb. 2026 Coach Training



DBHDD Policy Information

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

Payment by Individuals for Community Behavioral Health Services, 01-107

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

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 Issue Management System (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
DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov.



BE WELL



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