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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.



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



July 16, 2024 - Cartersville

July 17, 2024 - Morrow

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!](#)

Additional sessions will be offered in Athens, Waycross, Columbus, Albany, Cartersville, and Atlanta in June and July 2024.

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

**Person-Centered Thinking
Training for IDD Providers**

IntellectAbility, in collaboration with DBHDD, is providing free Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) Training to all IDD provider staff. See below for more information and registration details.



About the Training

Person-Centered Thinking Training consists of two-parts:

Part 1: Person-Centered Thinking eLearn. This 3-hour eLearn course is housed within the Relias Learning Management System. 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. Information to join the selected training day will be sent after the registration is approved.
4. To receive the full Person-Centered Thinking Training, both Part 1 and 2 must be successfully completed.
5. The learner will receive a certificate for each training part.

If you have already completed Part 1, [click here](#) to register for Part 2. Want to learn even more about the training and other person-centered information that relates to you? Click the link below to access the FAQs.

[Person-Centered Thinking Training FAQs](#)

Featured Article

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.

**BH Provider Staff Credentialing
Worksheet**

DBHDD Announcements

FY25 Quality Review Process for the Provider Network

The Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD recently presented updates on the FY 2025 Quality Review process for behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability providers.

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT ...

The presentations and their recordings are available on the Georgia Collaborative ASO website here: [Provider Archive](#) | [Georgia Collaborative](#).

Delays in Fieldprint Registration Processing

Due to an increase in the volume of Fieldprint registrations, DBHDD is currently experiencing a delay in the approval process. We are processing registrations as quickly as possible in the order received.



Here are some ways to help us process these faster:

1. Be sure the applicant has correctly registered in Fieldprint **before** sending the registration form:
 - a. If you are paying for the background check, make sure the applicant registered using your **Fieldprint Code** which includes your agency ID and the correct reason code DBH/DD - Contractors Providing Care/Treatment
 - b. If applicant is paying, make sure applicant registered using your agency ID and the correct reason code **DBH/DD - Contractors Providing Care/Treatment**
2. Be sure the **Applicant Registration Form** is complete and includes the applicant's position and Fieldprint Registration ID (applicant can find in their online registration)
3. Email the complete registration form to dbhdd.reg@dbhdd.ga.gov.



From left to right: Director Ron Wakefield, DBHDD; Starr Bruner, GCDD; Rebecca Williamson, GVRA; Christine Gudgin, DBHDD; Dr. Jeff Thompson, DBHDD; Robert Bell, DBHDD; Teja Stokes, SELN/NASDDDS; John Butterworth, SELN/ICI

Changes to IDD State Funded SE Services



As announced at the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Statewide Provider Meetings on May 21, 22, and 23, 2024, there have been some changes to State Funded Supported Employment Services (SE) which take effect July 1, 2024.

Providers will notice the announced changes may be in conflict to the **State Funded Supported Employment Policy 02-301** which was announced in the updated policies section of the June 2024 edition of the Provider Network News. The policy listed currently in PolicyStat was the renewal of the State Funded Supported Employment Policy which was up for renewal last year and the announced changes occurred after this policy was sent for approval and renewal. We apologize for any confusion on the matter and the team is in progress to make addendums to the policy 02-301 to reflect the announcements made at the mandatory provider meetings.

Read the information below for clarifications regarding delivering State Funded Supported Employment Services.

All individuals receiving State Funded Supported Employment Services are required to have a Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) completed by the provider identified in the **HRST Hierarchy**. For the majority of the individuals in State Funded Supported Employment services, this will be the State Funded SE provider.

Though the change takes effect July 1, 2024, due to policy confusion and to ensure providers have time to complete this task, monitoring of HRST competition will not begin until July 1, 2025. This will give providers the opportunity to screen individuals on a timeframe which works for the person and the provider such as a birthday rotation.

Effective, July 1, 2024, DBHDD will no longer be offering the constellation of initial Supported Employment supports under State Funded services and the billing code for those services (CIE) will no longer be available. Any billing of initial Supported

Employment services under any other billing codes is allowed. This change is reflected in the provider's Letter of Agreement (LOA)/ Contract.

- Initial supports are indicative of a group of services (Discovery, job, development, initial job training/supports, stabilization) and not just when an individual comes into Supported Employment services for the first time. As with NOW/COMP waiver services, any time an individual is not employed (for any reason, at any point in time) a referral will need to be made to Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) for funding for initial supports.
- The State Funded Supported Employment Referral process will have the same basic process flow with the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Specialists receiving referrals from the Region Field Offices, contacting Families, checking with Providers about capacity and then the ADRC Specialists will complete the GVRA-DBHDD Collaboration referral. This Collaboration referral is a must to ensure a continuity of care and services for the individual and minimal disruption of payment process for the Provider.
- Upon successful completion of initial supports funded through GVRA, the individual qualifies for extended Supported Employment through DBHDD either through State Funded Supported Employment or NOW/COMP Waiver Supported Employment funds.

For individuals currently receiving initial Supported Employment services through State Funds, there will be a transition to GVRA for initial services funding.

- DBHDD is currently in process of verifying an individual's employment status. Please keep an eye out for emails/calls from State Service Coordinators, Region Field Offices, or the State Office and respond promptly so the transition will be smooth with minimal disruption of payment and services.
- This is only a funding shift for those providers who are dual providers (Approved providers by GVRA and DBHDD) and should have little to no impact of service delivery to the individual since the provider will remain the same throughout the process.
- While a person is receiving funding through GVRA for initial supports, the provider does not have to complete/update the HRST.
- If you have a person, currently receiving initial supports through State Funds, please feel free to let the State Service Coordinator or the IDD Supported Employment Manager, Christine Gudgin at Christine.Gudgin@dbhdd.ga.gov.
- If you are a State Funded Supported Employment provider and not an approved GVRA provider, please reach out to Christine Gudgin (email listed below) and we can discuss your situation on a case-by-case basis.

Once again, we apologize for any confusion and hope this information brings additional clarity to the upcoming changes.

If you have any question or concerns, please feel free to contact Christine Gudgin at Christine.Gudgin@dbhdd.ga.gov

Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

Georgia Disaster Mental Health Response Team

In response to hurricane season, the Georgia Disaster Mental Health Response Team is actively seeking new volunteers to register.



Providing emotional support to responders and survivors of disasters is an important part of emergency response, and Georgia is committed to developing a team of trained and

experienced volunteers who can meet that challenge.

All Disaster Mental Health Response Team volunteers are required to have:

- A current professional mental health or medical license with the state of GA
- Training in either:
 - Georgia Disaster Mental Health Field Response Training **or**
 - American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Training **or**
 - National Incident Management System FEMA ICS courses 100 & 700

Please go to <https://servga.gov/index.php> to register for an account and apply to be part of the Georgia Disaster Mental Health Response Team!

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Materials

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has made it easier to order print materials.

- Stickers
- Magnets
- Posters
- Wallet cards
- Notepads
- Notecards
- Downloadable Print Files

Materials are free to the public and can be ordered through their [website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Behavioral Threat Assessment
and Management
July 2, 2024
(Habersham County)**

**Region G: Mass Power Outage
Tabletop Exercise
July 17, 2024
Region G - Augusta**

**Behavioral Threat Assessment
and Management
July 23, 2024
Barrow County School System
(Winder)**

**Understanding and Planning for
School Bombings
July 24, 2024
GEMA
(Appling County)**

**Behavioral Threat Assessment
and Management
July 29, 2024**



TOOLS & RESOURCES

**Georgia Emergency Management
Department of Public Health
Ready.Gov**

American Red Cross

Georgia Healthcare Coalitions

**Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities**

**Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration**

GEMA
(Covington)



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

Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112

Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201

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



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