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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 scheduled at this time. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).



- [I/DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Webinar](#)

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

ANSA/CANS Virtual Training

MARCH 2022

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Behavioral Health, is happy to provide you with upcoming virtual training for the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) functional assessments in March 2022.

This free, on-line training is applicable for clinical supervisors, and clinicians/practitioners who are contracted providers of child/adolescent, adult mental health and addictive disease services, who will be administering the ANSA and or CANS.

General Users Training

This two-part training is for those who want certification to become general users of the ANSA CANS assessment tools or recertify. The general user courses are for clinicians/practitioners and will not be sufficient for clinical supervisors. The two-part general user training session times are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on the dates listed below.

PART 1: Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) Overview

- Monday, March 14

PART 2: ANSA CANS Orientation (Select **ONE** date to attend):

- Tuesday, March 15
- Wednesday, March 16
- Thursday, March 17
- Friday, March 18

Train-the-Trainer/Supervisors Training

This two-day training is for those who want certification to become an ANSA CANS trainer or coach for their agency or recertify. In order to attend the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) "SuperUser" sessions, you must have completed the ANSA CANS general user courses within the last 12 months. ToT attendees must complete both sessions below. The ToT

sessions times are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the dates listed below.

Part 1: Training-of-Trainers

- Tuesday, March 22

Part 2: Training-of-Trainers

- Wednesday, March 23

[Click here](#) to register for these trainings.

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

15th Annual System of Care Academy

**Honoring Our Past, Treasuring Our Present,
Shaping Our Future**



The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families and the Georgia Interagency Directors Team are pleased to announce the 2022 Georgia System of Care Academy (SOCA).

WHEN: June 28-30, 2022

WHERE: Comfort of Your Home (Virtual)

REGISTRATION: Coming in May!

Please spread the word by distributing the 2022 SOCA Save the Date announcement available at the link below.

**SOC SAVE THE DATE
FLYER**

Contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov for any questions.



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: Supporting Adult Dressing Skills
March 2, 2022 - 09:00 am to 10:00 am

Getting dressed each day is a key activity of daily living for us all. This webinar will offer guidance for supporting and coaching this routine activity in a person-centered way. Teaching strategies, which promote skill acquisition and independence for clothing selection and maintenance, will be shared. The right to choose one's own clothing, and the associated responsibilities in exercising that right, will be expanded to include the individual's

preferences. Attention will be given to assuring accessibility and in handling special circumstances.

Community Membership after the Pandemic: The Benefits of Social Capital **March 2, 2022 - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

This training webinar session will focus on how staff and family members can support people to engage in their communities during the pandemic. Specific examples will be provided regarding how to assist people to make friends and to become involved in clubs and activities during the pandemic. The importance of community membership to individuals' health, social distancing, and safety will also be discussed. This training will focus on helping staff teach individuals new skills, how to develop and strengthen social roles, and increase their community engagement, while practicing social distancing and staying safe.

Developing and Using a Pre-ISP Process **March 15, 2022 - 9:00 am to 10:00 am**

This webinar training session will begin with a discussion of the importance of preplanning for the annual Individual Service Plan (ISP) meeting. Specific strategies that staff and others can adopt to help individuals to be in control over their ISP meeting and the resulting new goals. The webinar will focus on providing examples and tips on how to prepare the individual for the ISP meeting and how to support individuals to make choices, set goals, and to take responsibility for directing their supports and services will be shared.

For any questions or registration issues, please contact
GaCollaborativePR@beaconhealthoptions.com.

Featured Article

CMS Approval of the ARPA Home and Community-Based Services Initial Spending Plan

We are pleased to announce that on February 14, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) granted Georgia conditional approval for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Home and Community-Based Services Initial Spending Plan. Both the conditional approval letter and initial spending plan can be found by [clicking here](#).



The conditional approval memorandum allows Georgia to begin planning activities in the spending plan based on the conditions described in the letter and qualifies the state for a temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for home and community-based services (HCBS) under section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. While the Department of Community Health (DCH) has several service elements in this plan, specifically, the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is partnering with the DCH on content related to the COMP/NOW 1915(c) Waivers and the Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services Program (through the Medicaid Rehabilitation Option).

Please stay tuned for additional implementation information from DCH and DBHDD. We look forward to the opportunities the approval creates to support our valued provider networks and the people we collectively serve.

DBHDD Policy Information

Since February 1, 2022 DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

Reporting and Notification of Breaches of Confidentiality, 23-102

Support Coordinator Responsibility for Assessments, Evaluations, and Healthcare Plans, or Behavioral Plans, and Risk Mitigation Documents 02-436

The Service Planning Process and Individual Service Plan Development, 02-438

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](#).

DBHDD Announcements

BE ... Ready for PolicyStat 2.0!

Effective **March 28, 2022** the look of the DBHDD PolicyStat website will change. Users will see a cleaner layout and a change in coloring of the new version that also brings us many welcomed operational improvements.



As well as the new look, other upgrades that you will notice include:

- Better readability on cellphone and tablet screens. Users will no longer be frustrated by the need to scroll across a smaller screen to read the whole line.
- PolicyStat now meets **universal accessibility guidelines**. If you use a screen reader, voice, or keyboard controls, you can use PolicyStat with ease.
- The homepage and welcome page are now combined. See important messages from the Policy Office and New and Recently Revised policies.
- A collapsible "Table of Contents", when collapsed the policy is centered on the screen.

Some aspects of functionality operate differently but in general the biggest change is the format of the pages. To assist Providers in navigating the new format please review our [short Webinar demonstration](#).

These key processes have not changed, namely:

- You still have access to our information **without needing** a login or username.
- The way DBHDD approved policy is published and categorized. Chapters 01, 02, and 04 still apply to Community Providers – other chapters do not.
- Access is available 24/7, 365 (with minimal downtime for system updates).

Send any questions regarding access to PolicyStat to PolicyQuestions@dhdd.ga.gov.

INVOICE PAYMENT REQUEST SUBMITTED TO DBHDD

Due to a paper shortage, if your agency has selected to be reimbursed via check, beginning March 1, 2022, it will take up to an additional 30 days to receive payment.

Payments via the Automatic Clearing House will **NOT** be Delayed.

If your agency wishes to change the form of payment, please complete the vendor



management form, available at the link below. The form and required documents should be submitted to your designated DBHDD contact person.

If you are unfamiliar with your contact person, please contact DBHDDAccountsPayable@dbhdd.ga.gov with your contact information, the specific location your company does business with (i.e., hospital, state office, etc.), and the services provided.

VENDOR MANAGEMENT FORM

FAQ: CMS VACCINE MANDATE

DBHDD has received several inquiries related to the vaccine mandate requirement for CMS Certified Medicare and Medicaid facilities.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has created a decision tree graphic that can assist agencies in determining if they are required to comply with the mandate. It is available at the link below.

CMS DECISION TREE GRAPHIC

How do you know if you're a certified facility?

- You have gone through the Medicare enrollment process
- Have received a survey by State Survey Agency or CMS approved Accrediting Organization
- Received a National Provider Identifier (NPI) and CMS Certification Number (CCN)
- Can bill Medicare for services
- Medicare pays for services

You can also verify whether you are a certified CMS facility via the [Quality Certification & Oversight Reports \(QCOR\) website](#).

If the staff vaccination requirements apply, your facility must:

For Phase 1:

- Facilities must have all policies and procedures in place for ensuring staff are fully vaccinated, providing exemptions, and tracking staff vaccinations.
- Staff at all health care facilities included within the regulation must have received, at a minimum, the first dose of a primary series or a single dose COVID-19 vaccine prior to staff providing any care, treatment, or other services for the facility and/or its patients.

For Phase 2:

- Staff must be fully vaccinated (with the exception of those who have been granted exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine or for those staff for whom the COVID-19 vaccination must be temporarily delayed, as recommended by CDC).

Additional information can be found in the [CMS Press Release](#) and [Omnibus Health Care Staff Vaccination Rule](#).

Please note that questions related to legal interpretations should be directed to your agency's legal counsel.

2022 SOCA CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

15th Annual System of Care Academy Virtual

June 28 – 30, 2022



The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families and the Georgia Interagency Directors Team are pleased to announce this Call for Workshop Proposals for the 2022 Georgia System of Care Academy (SOCA). The 15th Annual SOCA Virtual is scheduled for June 28-30, 2022. The theme this year is **SOCA 15: Honoring Our Past, Treasuring Our Present, Shaping Our Future**.

Each year SOCA invites a robust group of workshop presenters to share their extensive knowledge and experience with our attendees. The SOCA planning committee is always seeking ways to improve our attendees' experience and this year SOCA will offer three tracks therefore we are seeking specific workshop topics based on those tracks. The 2022 SOCA tracks are as follows:

1. **PAST: GA SOC Foundations Track;**
2. **PRESENT: Professional Development Track; and**
3. **FUTURE: Clinical Interventions Track.**

Specific information on the SOCA Call for Workshop Proposals, workshop proposal requirements, intended audience, topics, tracks, and the presentation review and selection process is available at the link below.

SOCA WORKSHOP PROPOSAL CRITERIA

You can submit your workshop proposal by or before the Wednesday, March 9, 2022, deadline by [clicking here](#).

For technical assistance submitting your proposal, contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.



Georgia's COVID-19 Emotional Support Line is Here to Help!

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is operating the Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line to assist people who have been emotionally, physically, or financially impacted by COVID-19. The Emotional Support Line is free, confidential, and anonymous. Trained mental health professionals are available to provide a "listening ear" to Georgians who need emotional support and referrals to resources in their communities.

This service is made possible through funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as a component of DBHDD's Georgia Recovery Project for COVID-19. The Georgia Recovery Project began on May 1, 2020, and, in addition to the Emotional Support Line, the program funds outreach through teams based in DBHDD's six regions.

The Emotional Support Line is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and can be reached by calling or texting (866) 399-8938.

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.

PIMS is 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". You can also access the PIMS site directly by using the link below.

**PROVIDER ISSUES MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM**

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, WEAR A MASK,
& WASH YOUR HANDS!**

