

**BE CONNECTED**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. 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](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).



## 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.

### **Learning about Nursing Service Descriptions** **Monday, March 4, 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am**

In this learning webinar session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the nursing service description. A detailed overview of the nursing service description will be shared.

### **Supporting Individuals Through Alternative Communication** **Friday, March 8, 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am**

This training webinar session will focus on sharing resources on alternative communication tools. Participants will learn how to review ways in which staff can support individuals by guiding them through helpful resources which can assist with alternate communication needs.

### **How to Make Everyday Activities Learning Opportunities** **Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:30 am to 10:30 am**

In this webinar, participants will learn how they can support individuals with their day-to-day activities and help them build skills along the way. Participants will learn how to train individuals with life skills and promote personal growth in maximizing functional ability, independence, and exposure to real-life activities.

**How Staff Can Assist Individuals with Learning About their Medication**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

In this webinar, participants will learn how to educate individuals about their medications. Basic examples and tips will be shared on ways to improve education on medications.

**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](mailto:GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com).

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

**March 28, 2024**  
**9:00 am to 12:00 pm**



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](mailto:Calvin.Fisher@dbhdd.ga.gov) or Kevin Morrow at [Kevin.Morrow@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Kevin.Morrow@dbhdd.ga.gov).

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## **Featured Article**

### **Fieldprint Background Check**

The Applicant Registration Form (Attachment E of [Policy 04-104](#)) has been updated to include a place for the applicant's **Fieldprint Registration ID**.



As a reminder, for fastest registration approval, the applicant should register in Fieldprint **before** emailing the Registration Form to [DBHDD.Reg@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDD.Reg@dbhdd.ga.gov).

### **Step-by-Step Registration Guide**

1) Applicants must complete their own registration in Fieldprint. They must create a scheduling site account at <https://fieldprintgeorgia.com/individuals> and register themselves for fingerprints.

2) Providers must email the signed Registration Forms to [dbhdd.reg@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:dbhdd.reg@dbhdd.ga.gov). These forms are attachments to DBHDD policies **Criminal History Record Check for DBHDD Network Provider Applicants, 04-104** and **Criminal History Record Check for Individual Provider Applicants, 04-111**.

3) After the registration has been approved, the applicant will receive an email from Fieldprint informing them their registration was approved.

4) The applicant will need to login to Fieldprint and schedule a fingerprint appointment by clicking "Returning User Login" and entering the username and password they created. The applicant should take the appointment number and their photo ID to the fingerprint site at the scheduled appointment date/time.

5) Applicants' eligibility letters will continue to be accessed through our **CHRIS Application**.

## DBHDD Announcement

**A Message From  
Our Partners at DCH**

### **Spring Hybrid Medicaid Fair**



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

The Face-to-Face / Virtual Medicaid Fair will offer important updates on emergent issues by the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) leadership and host several break-out sessions covering a variety of topics.

The Opening Session will highlight news from the DCH, including an overview of programs and policy updates. The day will feature break-out sessions focused on relevant topics for our provider community along with time for questions and answers. Some of the areas that will be covered are:

- CMO Updates
- Mental Health Parity
- Revalidation/Change of Information
- Member Redetermination
- New Initiatives

To register online and for details, visit: <https://forms.gle/XRkS9Hkk4NwzYfeSA>. Attendees must register to reserve a seat for each individual session selected.

A confirmation e-mail will be sent to the address you provide during registration. Review the confirmation e-mail for accuracy.

Questions? Contact Gainwell Technologies  
at [georgiamedicaidfair@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:georgiamedicaidfair@gainwelltechnologies.com).

**DBHDD Regional Field Office  
Operations Contact List**

Please find at the link below an updated contact list for the Regional Field Office (RFO) Operations staff. These staff are available to assist you as needed when there are questions or issues regarding individuals receiving or in need of services.

IN CASE YOU  
MISSED IT ...

For questions related to policies, procedures and community standards as outlined in the DBHDD Community Provider Manuals or PolicyStat, we encourage you to submit those to the Office of Provider Relations via the [Provider Issue Management System \(PIMS\)](#).

RFO Operations Staff Contact  
List

## Division of Developmental Disabilities

### NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey 2023



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities would like to request assistance from Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) providers with the **2023 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey** (formerly called the Staff Stability Survey).

The National Core Indicators-Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI-IDD) State of the Workforce Survey for 2023 data will begin in March for eligible Providers who employed Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) during the 2023 calendar year. This survey gathers information about employees providing direct “hands on” services and supports, often referred to as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). This survey gathers information on staffing levels, job stability, wages, compensation, and focuses on the DSP workforce employed between 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023.

Eligible provider agencies will receive an email beginning March 15th with a unique link to the survey. Additionally, a survey invite will be sent to each Provider agency during this survey cycle and should be completed by the agency’s Human Resources or Payroll offices. **The survey deadline is June 30, 2023.**

Please submit any questions directly to Division contact, Latonya Williams [latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov) for more information.

### IDD Statewide Provider Meetings Presentation

AVAILABLE NOW

The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities hosted the quarterly Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Statewide Provider meetings on February 6th - 8th, 2024. The presentation from the meetings is now available on the DBHDD website, on the [Provider Toolkit webpage](#).

Additionally, as discussed at the meetings, the Housemate Matching Form, Change of Location Form, and Site Inspection Checklist Template have also been added to the [Provider Toolkit webpage](#) and are available at the links below.

Lastly, the Traditional Provider Family Hire Request form has been updated and is available on the [Provider Toolkit webpage](#) and at the link below.

Change of Location  
Form

Housemate Matching  
Form

Site Inspection Checklist  
Template

Traditional Family Hire Request Form -  
Updated

## Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

### Caregiver Preparedness

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI) and FEMA have partnered to launch the [Disaster Preparedness Guide for Caregivers](#). “This guide will help you learn about disaster preparedness and identify the needs of your care recipient and how they might change during a disaster. You may also have questions about preparedness or not even know the questions to ask. This guide will help answer these questions, share ways to connect with your community, and bolster your confidence as a caregiver during a disaster.”



The guide provides key considerations caregivers can use to identify their care recipient's needs and how they may change during a disaster.

#### Identify Barriers & Risks

- With your care recipient,
- With your support network, and
- As a solo caregiver.

#### Learn & Connect

- Assess preparedness roles.
- Establishing partnerships with emergency services.

#### Make a Plan

- Build a kit.
- Prepare service animals.

### 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 CCP assistance provided to Georgians through the Georgia Recovery Project.

### **DR-4738 - Hurricane Idalia**

September 2023 - February 2024

Disaster Outreach Services: Primary Services

- Individual Crisis Counseling: 29
- Group Counseling/Public Education: 0
- Brief Educational/Supportive Contact: 260
- Total: 289 total individuals served

### **Most common risk factors for those impacted by Hurricane Idalia were:**

1. Home damage/destroyed
2. Other financial loss
3. Preexisting physical disability
4. Past trauma
5. Disaster related unemployment or underemployment



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults (GEPC)**

March 7, 2024 @ 2:30pm  
Email [Kalie Burke](mailto:Kalie.Burke@dhhs.ga.gov) to register.

#### **Mental Health First Aid**

March 8, 2024  
HPP Region M (Bacon County)

#### **Critical Incident Stress Management**

April 2-4, 2024  
Region E Healthcare Coalition (Athens)



**SAMHSA Ready**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



### **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**

Please contact [Kalie Burke](mailto:Kalie.Burke@dhhs.ga.gov), Disaster Mental Health Coordinator, for any questions. You can also view the Department of Public Health and DBHDD [Georgia Disaster Mental](#)

## DBHDD Policy Information

Since February 1, 2024, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

**Georgia Housing Voucher Program (GHVP) and Need for Supportive Housing Survey (NSH), 01-120**

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](mailto:DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov).



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