
BE CONNECTEDNETWORK
NEWS
"News You Can Use"

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.



HCBS: Person-Centered Goals Webinar

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

HCBS: Person-Centered Goals Webinar
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This training will focus on the development and implementation of person-centered goals within Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Webinar attendees will learn how to identify individual preferences, strengths, and aspirations to create meaningful goals that support community inclusion, independence, and self-direction.

This webinar will also provide practical tools and strategies for translating personal outcomes into actionable service plans, ensuring compliance with HCBS settings rule requirements and promoting high-quality, person-driven supports.

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

HCBS: Individual's Choice for Supported Employment Webinar

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

HCBS: Individual's Choice for Supported Employment Webinar
Friday, May 9, 2025, 11:00AM - 12:00PM

This training webinar will focus on how to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to make informed choices about Supported and Competitive Integrated Employment under Georgia's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

This training will focus on best practices for fostering employment goals aligned with each individual's preferences, strengths, and interests. Attendees will also learn strategies to promote independence, dignity, and inclusion through employment.

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

What does a DSP need to know about Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)? Webinar

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

What does a DSP need to know about
Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)? Webinar
Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 11:00AM - 12:00PM

This webinar training will provide direct support professionals (DSPs) and managers with foundational knowledge of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and their role in supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Attendees will explore the purpose and principles of HCBS, including person-centered planning, community integration, individual rights, and promoting independence.

The intent of the training is to motivate and empower DSPs to support individuals to live meaningful lives in their communities and how to apply practices in delivering high-quality, person-centered support.

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

ASSESSING SUICIDE RISK USING THE COLUMBIA SUICIDE SEVERITY RATING SCALE (C SSRS)



AVAILABLE NOW

Region 1: Monday, June 2, 2025
10:00 am - 12:00 pm OR 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Target Audience:

This training opportunity is intended for behavioral health clinicians responsible for the care

of individuals who are or may be at risk for suicide.

Training Location:

This training will take place in-person in Cumming, GA. Location address will be included in registration confirmation.

This is an IN-PERSON training for Region 1 ONLY

Additional details to follow for Regions 2 - 6 once dates and location details are confirmed.

See the attached flyer for additional information.

Registration is now open! Click the link below to register.

Register Now!

Flyer: C-SSRS Training 2025

**2025 Transformational Change:
Strengthening Person-Centered
Service Delivery within the HCBS
Settings Rule**

NEW DATES & LOCATIONS ADDED

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Division of Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the **Transformational Change: Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule.**

This one-day interactive workshop is specifically for Support Coordinators, Intensive Support Coordinators, Behavior Support Specialists, Nurses, and Planning List Administrators to better understand the intent and expectations of the Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule.

The Transformation Change workshop will be offered 6 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 that 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 for registration and more information! *Each training session will be conducted in-person.*

For any registration questions, please contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.



Transformational Change:



Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule for Providers & Direct Support Professions

June 04, 2025, 9:30AM - 4:00PM

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is pleased to offer a one-day interactive workshop for DD Service Providers, Direct Support Professionals and Field Office staff to better understand the intent and expectations of the Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule.

This workshop is specifically designed for DD Service Providers, Direct Support Professionals, and Field Office staff.

This Transformational Change workshop is 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 that 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.

DBHDD strongly recommends that agencies send at least two participants to each workshop in every region where they provide services. We request an executive/administrator and a DSP attend and expect that these participants will then provide the information to their agencies to meet HCBS expectations.

Registration Deadline: May 28, 2025

Register Now!

For any registration questions, please contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training

This Participant-Direction (Self-Direction) New Enrollment Training series is **MANDATORY** for all Participants/Representatives prior to self directing their waiver services and supports under the New Options Waiver (NOW) or the Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver Programs.

The goal of the series is to discuss the Role and Responsibilities of the Representative as written in Part II of the NOW/COMP Manual and to review the services that are covered/not covered under the NOW/COMP Waivers. These sessions will ensure that all Participant-Direction enrollees clearly understand the Participant-Direction service delivery option and understand the role, authorities, and responsibilities of the Participant/Representative. Please check menu at the top of the page for details on future training dates.

All Participant-Direction enrollees are required to attend training and sign a new "Memo of Understanding" (MOU) and complete an Attestation form in order to begin self directing.

**DON'T
MISS IT!**

These documents will be reviewed and signed during the Participant's/Representative's registered training session.

Training Date:

- May 13, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Registration is **REQUIRED**. Registration for this event will close once capacity is reached.

Please Note: These sessions are not for current or potential Medicaid Providers. Providers will not be approved to attend.

[Register Now](#)

Free Person-Centered Thinking Training Now Available

reminder

Training Dates Now Available through June 2025

DBHDD, in collaboration with IntellectAbility, is providing free Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) Training.

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.

[Register Now!](#)

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.

If you have questions about this training and how to get started, email: PCSupport@ReplacingRisk.com

Featured Article

SAVE THE DATE

Join Commissioner Tanner for an Important IDD Provider Network Conversation

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (ET)**

Dear IDD Providers,
You're invited to a special statewide webinar hosted by DBHDD Commissioner Kevin Tanner, created specifically for Georgia's Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) provider network.

Online Only – Registration Required: To register for this event, please click [here](#).

Agenda Highlights:

Commissioner Tanner will offer a comprehensive update on the current IDD service landscape in Georgia, including:

- Key takeaways from the 2025 legislative session
- Updates on budget and policy changes impacting providers
- Strategic priorities and upcoming investments
- Program enhancements designed to support individuals and families
- A vision for the future of IDD services in Georgia

This is a unique opportunity to hear directly from DBHDD leadership, ask questions, and stay informed about how the department is working to strengthen services and support across our system of care.


Who Should Attend:

All IDD Providers, Support Coordinators, Direct Support Professionals, and DBHDD Central & Regional Field Office Staff are encouraged to attend.

We look forward to your participation in this important conversation.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**IDD PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE WITH
COMMISSIONER KEVIN TANNER**
MAY 14, 2025
**10 A.M.
VIRTUAL-ONLY**
Commissioner Tanner will provide an inside look at this year's legislative outcomes, share exciting developments in IDD services, and reveal what's ahead for the remainder of 2025.


DBHDD

DBHDD Announcements

**Children's Mental Health Day
at the Capitol**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025
8:00AM - 12:30PM**



Join us as we make it a WRAP celebration of Wellness, Resilience, Action, and Purpose at this year's Children's Mental Health Day at the Capitol. We will have guest speakers, great food, a sponsor room, cool swag, and fellowship as we rally for Children's Mental Health in Georgia! Free event. ASL interpreters will be on site.

This year's event features guest speakers as follows: commissioners, legislators, state behavioral health leaders, youth voice, and so much more! The sponsor room will be full of networking opportunities, resources, and swag to take home.

Location:

Georgia Freight Depot and Georgia State Capital
65 M.L.K. Jr Dr SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

Schedule:

- 8am - 9am: Breakfast
- 9am - 12:30pm: Main event

We invite DBHDD staff, DBHDD providers, colleagues, friends and family to join us at this fabulous event in support of Children's Mental Health in Georgia. The Capitol programming will immediately follow the program at the Depot.

Scan the QR Code above or click the link below to register!

Register Now!

Flyer: Children's Mental Health Day at the Capitol

Division of Behavioral Health



2025 BH Symposium Call for Presentation Proposals and Award Nominations

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Division of Behavioral Health is pleased to announce that it will again host the Behavioral Health Symposium, October 1 - 3, 2025. This year's conference will be held IN-PERSON at Callaway Gardens Lodge Conference Center - Pine Mountain, GA.

The theme this year is "**Opening Doors to Recovery**". The goal of the symposium is to inform professionals about best practices in the delivery of behavioral health services and supports and is intended to benefit all organizations that currently contract with DBHDD's Division of Behavioral Health.

Call for Presentation Proposals are OPEN!

Details and requirements for the DBHDD 2025 Behavioral Health Symposium Call for Presentation Proposals can be found on the submission website. Submit your presentation

proposal before, **Sunday, May 25, 2025 (11:59PM)**.

To submit your Presentation Proposal, click [here](#).

Call for Award Nominations are OPEN!

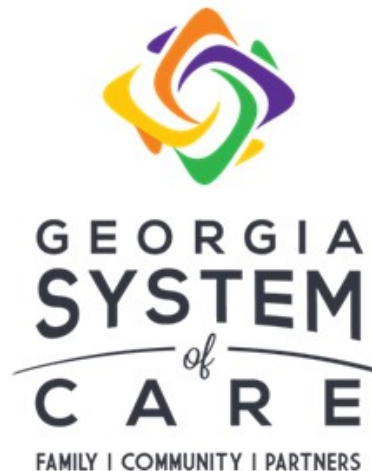
Click the button below to view award categories and descriptions! The nomination deadline for all awards is **Friday, May 30, 2025**.

To submit your nomination, click [here](#).

2025 Behavioral Health Awards

General Questions? Email ssu@cviog.uga.edu

Submission Website/Technical Questions? Email DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov



18th Annual System of Care Academy Conference

Empower ~ Engage ~ Elevate

June 25-27, 2025 | Stone Mountain, GA

Registration is OPEN!

The 18th Annual Georgia SOCA conference registration is now open!

Visit our website (**click the link below!**) to discover all the exciting details about the event. From captivating sessions and engaging speakers to registration, FAQs, CEU information, and even accommodation options, it's all there waiting for you!

Registration for this event is first-come, first-served then a waitlist will open.

Registration officially closes on Wednesday, April 30th, but historically, it fills up quickly.

We hope to see you in June!

Register Now!

Division of Developmental Disabilities

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Presentation on Changes to the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult Version 2nd Edition and Respondent Resources



The recordings and PowerPoint presented by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) on changes to the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult Version, Second Edition for Network Providers and Families/Advocates have been posted **in the DBHDD Provider Toolkit and on the Participant Directed webpage.**

AAIDD SIS-A 2nd Edition Information Session

- **Recording: April 3, 2025 - IDD Providers**
- **Recording: April 4, 2025 - Families & Advocates**
- **Presentation**

There is additional information provided by AAIDD that includes several short, animated videos and topics on the SIS-A 2nd Edition titled **SIS-A, 2nd Edition Respondent Resources**. This link has been added to the [DBHDD DD training page](#).

The transition to use of the SIS-A, 2nd Edition will be effective July 1, 2025 and will be administered over time when an individual's SIS is due or when there is a clinically assessed long term change in condition and level of support needs.

Community Residential Alternative (New CRA) Enrollment Information Training

AVAILABLE NOW

The April 11th New CRA Provider Enrollment Training has been posted in the [DBHDD Provider Toolkit](#).

You may view the training by clicking [here](#).



Action Needed: Complete the 2024 State of the Workforce Survey on DSPs

The Georgia Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) would like to request your assistance with the **2024 NCI State of the Workforce Survey**. The Georgia Division of IDD is partnering with National Core Indicators

– Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI-IDD) on a nationwide survey about our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). This survey helps us understand our DSP workforce to inform staffing levels, job stability, wages, compensation, measure improvements, and compare our DSP workforce with other states.

Who: IDD Provider agencies that employed DSPs during the 2024 calendar year.

What: A survey about DSP employment numbers, job length, pay, benefits, and other workforce details for DSPs employed between January 1 and December 31, 2024.

Why: Your participation is crucial for an accurate statewide picture of our DSP workforce.

How: On Monday, April 28th, your agency should have received an email from HSRI (staffstability@hsri.org) with a unique survey link and login. Your agency data will be confidential and reported in aggregate. The survey should be completed by your HR or payroll departments. Only one survey per agency is needed.

Goal: Aiming for 100% participation to fully represent our DSPs. Last year, only about 40% of agencies responded, and that doesn't give us the full story of our DSP workforce.

Deadline: Please complete the survey by June 30, 2025.

For survey assistance, contact Latonya Williams at latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov.

DBHDD Policy Information

POLICY UPDATE: **Suicide Prevention, Screening, Brief Intervention and Monitoring, 01-118**



DBHDD has been working diligently to update the policy and procedures regarding Suicide Prevention, Screening, Brief Intervention and Monitoring. As many are aware, a revision to the policy was released and noted as effective on February 14, 2025.

The intention of the policy revisions is to clarify expectations, reduce administrative burden, while providing sound prevention and screening services to individuals we serve. Upon posting the policy, DBHDD has received important feedback regarding the procedural details and the need for a period of implementation. As such, **DBHDD has reverted to the former policy that was in effect prior to February 14, 2025.** This will allow time for revisions and provide clarity regarding current practice expectations in the interim.

The Office of Suicide Prevention and Federal Grants is confirming spring dates for training on the SAFE-T and Columbia and these will be circulated once confirmed. We will share more regarding the revised policy in advance of its effective date and provide time to support a successful transition for the network.

Suicide Prevention, Screening, Brief Intervention and Monitoring, 01-118

Since April 1, 2025, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

NOW and COMP Waivers for Community Developmental Disability Services, 02-1202

Legal Status for Intellectually Disabled Individuals in DBHDD Hospitals, 24-107

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



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

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