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Training Announcements

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



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

Supporting Social Skills and Relationship-Building
Monday, May 18, 2026, 9:30AM - 10:30AM

This webinar is designed to provide IDD professionals, support coordinators, and self-directed participants with the tools and strategies to support social skills development and relationship building for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will learn about the importance of social connections, practical techniques for fostering social skills, and ways to facilitate meaningful relationships that enhance the quality of life.

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

Supporting Communication Preferences
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 9:00AM - 10:00AM

This webinar is designed to equip providers in Georgia with the knowledge and skills to effectively support the communication preferences of individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will learn about various communication methods, the importance of personalized communication strategies, and how to create inclusive environments that respect and enhance the communication abilities of those they support.

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

**Supporting Access to Inclusive Education, Work, and Recreation
for Adults with Developmental Disabilities
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 11:30AM - 12:30PM**

This webinar is designed to provide IDD professionals with the knowledge and strategies to support adults with developmental disabilities in accessing inclusive education, work, and recreational opportunities. Participants will learn about the benefits of inclusion, practical approaches to overcoming barriers, and best practices for fostering environments where individuals with developmental disabilities can thrive in all aspects of life.

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



988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
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Georgia
Department of
Behavioral Health
& Developmental
Disabilities

**SAVE THE DATE:
2026 DBHDD Behavioral Health Symposium**

**October 20 - 22, 2026
Buford, GA**

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 21 and 22, 2026, with a Pre-Symposium taking place on October 20. This year's conference will be held at Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge and Conference Center.

The theme this year is “**Shaping Tomorrow: Hope, Healing, and the Road Ahead**”. 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.

**2026 BH Symposium:
Call for Presentation Proposals**

Submission Deadline: May 18, 2026

Submit a proposal to present at the 2026 Symposium by May 18, 2026 at:
<http://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/62fbba95-98f9-43fe-8107-ae994cb18827>

Details and requirements for submitting a presentation proposal can be found on the submission website.

Submit your presentation proposal before 11:59 PM on May 18, 2026.
Contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov for assistance with submitting a proposal.

Submit Your Presentation Proposal Now!

2026 BH Symposium: Behavioral Health Awards



Nomination Deadline: June 11, 2026

Nominations for the 2026 Behavioral Health Awards is OPEN.

Click the button below to view the award category descriptions. The nomination deadline for all awards is **June 11, 2026**.

Submit your 2026 BH Awards Nominations by scanning the QR code above or by clicking the following link: <https://uga.questionpro.com/2026DBHDD-BHawards>

View the 2026 BH Award Category Descriptions

2026 BH Symposium: Additional Information Coming Soon

Hotel Booking Information

Hotel booking information will be shared in the coming weeks!

General Questions about the DBHDD 2026 Behavioral Health Symposium?

Email ssu@cviog.uga.edu



DDLDC
2026

JEKYLL ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 - SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN
AUGUST OF 2026

SAVE THE DATE: **2026 DD Learning Collaborative**

September 15 - 17, 2026
Jekyll Island Convention Center

Join the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) for an inspiring three-day conference centered on this year's theme, ***Defining the Future, Reimagining Support and Belonging***. This dynamic event will bring together leaders, innovators, and professionals from across Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities service delivery system to spark new ideas, share bold strategies, and shape the future of support.

Experience an engaging lineup of sessions designed to energize your thinking, strengthen your practice, and elevate outcomes for the individuals you serve. From powerful plenary sessions to interactive workshops and vibrant exhibit experiences, attendees will gain practical tools and fresh perspectives to support individuals in achieving meaningful, self-directed lives.

Connect with distinguished experts and passionate peers while exploring critical topics such as rights and responsibilities, supporting individuals with complex needs, crisis stability, and dating and relationships. Sessions are thoughtfully designed for professionals at every level - from leadership to frontline staff - ensuring relevant, actionable takeaways for all.

Together we will explore cutting-edge innovations, emerging state and national trends, and creative approaches that advance belonging, accessibility, and opportunity. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a transformative experience that is redefining what's possible.

Important Information

- **All DD Providers**, including Direct Support Professionals, Nurses, Support Coordinators, and Paraprofessionals are invited to attend.

- **Please Note:** Confirmed registration and full attendance each day is required for CEUs and Certificate of Attendance. On-site parking is available.

2026 DD Learning Collaborative: Call for Proposals

**Submission Deadline:
May 26, 2026**

Are you interested in conducting one of the plenaries or workshops? If so, please follow this link and complete the proposal forms and include all required attachments: [2026 DD Learning Collaborative Call for Proposal](#)

[View & Share the 2026 DDLC Save the Date Now!](#)

AVAILABLE NOW

Community of Practice Opportunity for DD Community Access Providers

**Community Life Engagement in Action is Recruiting Providers
for Cohort #3 of National Community of Practice:
Apply by July 10, 2026**

What is Community Life Engagement in Action?

The goal of [Community Life Engagement in Action](#) is to support service providers to use the ideas in the CLE Toolkit to increase CLE outcomes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This work is being done through a partnership between the Institute on Disability at UNH (IOD), the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston (ICI), and the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) and guided by an advisory group that includes service providers, people with IDD, and other CLE experts.

What is the CLE in Action Community of Practice (CoP)?

A Community of Practice (CoP) is a peer-to-peer learning community. The CLE in Action CoP is for disability service providers seeking to support authentic CLE for people with IDD. The CLE in Action CoP is a virtual group where organizations will come together to share ideas and resources about helping people with IDD to meaningfully participate in their communities.

This CoP will follow the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model of two-way learning. Calls will include a structured agenda including presentations from experts, sharing and discussion of practice dilemmas, and peer to peer learning. This CoP is committed to reaching all communities, especially those that are underserved. You'll learn how to better serve diverse groups and address barriers they may face.

What are the benefits of participating in the CLE in Action CoP?

Participants will:

- **Learn from each other.** Using the [ECHO Model](#), we will rely on an “All Teach, All Learn” strategy so members can learn from each other’s real-world experiences and challenges.

- **Learn from subject matter experts.** This includes the Community Life Engagement in Action team and other experts in supporting providers to achieve high quality CLE outcomes.
- **Gain support and coaching** from a community of like-minded peers.
- **Benefit from group problem-solving** with others facing similar situations.

Who Should Join?

We are looking for service provider organizations that support people with IDD and that have a demonstrated commitment to the vision of community life engagement at multiple levels within their organization.

Organizations chosen to participate are expected to share their goals for how they will use the CoP to support that vision and a plan for using their CoP experience to improve CLE for people in their service area, including underserved communities.

Organizations will be expected to actively participate in 10 virtual CoP meetings over the course of a year and to share at least one practice dilemma with the group.

Our expectation is to engage up to three members within each service provider organization who represent senior leadership, middle management/coordination, and direct support.

What does membership involve?

CoP members will meet via Zoom ten times over a year. Each meeting will include a short, expert presentation on some aspect of community life engagement, followed by “member sharing” whereby CoP members share practice dilemmas for group problem-solving and discussion.

There is a minimum of a one-year commitment, with the option to continue beyond the first year.

How do I sign up?

Sign up to [apply for the CLE in Action Community of Practice here](#).

The deadline for applications is **July 10, 2026**.

CLE in Action will promote use of research-based tools to increase Community Life Engagement (CLE) for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Questions? Email Staci.Jones@umb.edu

Important Note:

This Community of Practice (CoP) is separate from the upcoming Community Access Group Technical Assistance Project that will be starting this summer. The ECHO CoP will complement the Georgia project that will be led by the University of Georgia (UGA) along with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDS) and the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI-UMASS). A provider can participate both in this National level technical assistance and the Georgia specific technical assistance.

Transformational Change: Creating Meaningful Individual Service Plans (ISPs)

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Division of Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the **Transformational Change: Creating Meaningful Individual Service Plans (ISPs)**. *Each training session will be conducted in-person.*



DBHDD, in partnership with Sangha Unity Network (SUN), will continue the work of Transformational Change through a series of interactive, one-day workshops focused on creating more meaningful Individual Service Plans using the new ISP template.

These workshops are designed to support a shift in thinking about the ISP, from a required document to a person-centered tool that reflects the aspirations, strengths, preferences, and choices of each person receiving services.

Participants will learn how to facilitate and develop ISPs that are grounded in person-centered engagement and aligned with the intent of the HCBS Settings Rule and NOW/COMP waivers.

This workshop is designed for Intensive/ Support Coordinators, State Service Coordinators, Planning List Administrators, Regional Operation Analysts, Regional I/E Managers, and DBHDD Staff. Registration is required.

[Register Now!](#)

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

**ADDITIONAL SESSIONS ADDED!
May 2026 Training Sessions Available Now**

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**. *Each training session will be conducted in-person.*

This series of one-day interactive workshops are intended to provide the attendees with a better understanding of the intent and expectations of the Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule. The Transformation Change workshop will be offered 7 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.

This workshop is designed for DD Providers, Direct Support Professionals, and Intensive/ Support Coordinators recognizing their valued role in supporting the people who are using the NOW/COMP waivers. Registration is required.

[Register Now!](#)

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT ...

DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training

This training is only required for individuals who are becoming a **"New" Participant Direction (PD) Representative (Employer of Record)** for a waiver participant utilizing Participant Direction under the NOW/COMP waiver. Completing this training is a requirement before Participant-Direction services may begin. Each session will be conducted via Webex video conferencing online.

This training prepares "New" PD Representatives (Employers of Record) to begin Participant-Direction by reviewing:

- Role and Responsibilities of the PD Representative/Employer of Record
- Covered and non-covered services under NOW and COMP
- Employer authority and accountability

The "New" PD Representative (Employer of Record) is the person who will:

- Hire Participant-Direction staff and/or service vendors
- Supervise and manage staff
- Approve employee time and vendors service invoices
- Ensure waiver rules and followed
- Be legally responsible for Participant-Direction services

***If you are not the person who will serve as the "New" PD Representative (Employer of Record), this training is not intended for you.**

Registrations submitted by individuals outside of the intended audience will not be approved to attend.

All "New" PD Representatives/Employers that attend the training must sign a Memo of Understanding (MOU) and complete an Attestation form in order to begin self directing. Links to the required documents will be included in your registration confirmation email. (check your spam/junk mail, please) These documents must be completed and returned **within 3 business days** after attending the training. Failure to submit required documents within the required timeframe will delay the start of Participant Direction services.

May Training Dates: [Click here to register!](#)

- May 11, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- May 19, 2026, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

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

Intended Audience

These sessions are exclusively for the individual that will become the Participant Direction Representative/Employer of Record and NOT for current, potential Medicaid Providers, Employees or Vendor Agencies hired under Participant Direction. Also, Providers, Employees and Vendor Agencies will NOT be approved to attend these sessions.

Person-Centered Thinking: Part 2 Training Available Now!

**May & June 2026
Sessions Available Now**



reminder

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.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Creating a One-Page Description
- Considering culture when giving support
- Learning to be *Process* and *Content* Experts
- Moving supports from *Power Over* to *Power With*
- The Relationship Map

- The Communication Chart
- Good Day/Bad Day
- Reframing Reputations
- Person-centered matching techniques

Important Note:

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.**

Intended Audience:

This training is required by DBHDD for all DD Providers, Support Coordinators, and Intensive Support Coordinators. Completing the Person-Centered Thinking eLearn course and this one-day virtual training will grant the SC/ISC the ability to create and edit Person-Centered Descriptions within the HRST web-based application for those they support.

Although community providers are welcome to have all of their staff trained, DBHDD recommends that community providers initially target their DDPs to complete this training as SC/ISCs will be working with DDPs to help build a reliable, usable ePCD for the person.

Only approved registrants will receive credit for attending and successfully completing the training. Anyone in attendance who is not on the approved roster will need to register and select their desired training date.

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

[Register Now!](#)

[View & Share the PCT Part 2 Training Flyer Now!](#)

Featured Article

DBHDD Announces Proposed Updates to DATEP Rules and Regulations



The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) has issued a **Public Notice of Proposed Rules and Regulations for Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs (DATEP)**. These proposed updates reflect important changes that will impact licensing, operations, and compliance requirements for providers across the state.

Why This Matters

These proposed rules follow the passage of **House Bill 584 (2025 Legislative Session)**, which transferred DATEP licensing authority from the Department of Community Health to DBHDD. The updates are designed to align regulatory oversight with this transition and modernize administrative requirements.

What to Expect

The proposed rules introduce updates across several areas, including licensing requirements, program oversight, staffing standards, reporting obligations, and client care expectations. They also establish clearer definitions, strengthen accountability measures, and provide more detailed guidance on safety practices and operational procedures for providers.

Public Comment Opportunity

DBHDD is seeking feedback on these proposed rules.

- **Deadline:** May 29, 2026, by 5:00 PM
- **Email comments to:** legal@dbhdd.ga.gov
OR
- **Mail comments to:**
Brenda Woodard, Esq., General Counsel
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E.
Suite 1406, West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334-9026

All comments will be reviewed before final adoption is considered at the **DBHDD Board Meeting on June 18, 2026**.

Stay Informed

These changes represent a significant step in strengthening oversight and improving the quality of care within Georgia's substance use treatment system. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the full document and provide input during the public comment period.

**Download the full public notice and proposed rules
by clicking the button below:**

View & Share the DATEP Public Notice Now!

DBHDD Announcements

Lifeline Wireless Program

Pulsewrx is proud to collaborate with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to offer the **Lifeline Wireless Program to all Medicaid recipients**.

All Georgia Medicaid members are eligible to receive this benefit. **The program offers households with a free Android smartphone and a free monthly talk, text, and data plan*** to provide eligible recipients with valuable technology to connect with friends, family, health care resources, and much more!



Pulsewrx believes that connectivity is a determinant of health and well-being. We are proud to offer the Lifeline Wireless program to bridge the gap and to ensure access to connectivity is available for everyone. This program is FREE to eligible households and the application process is easy! Eligible recipients can enroll today by visiting <http://mybenefitphone.com>. The application goes through the review process immediately. Once the application is approved, the phone will be shipped within 1-2 business days.

Enroll today!

Please contact the Pulsewrx team at contact@pulsewrx.com with any questions.



DBHDD Regional Field Operations

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

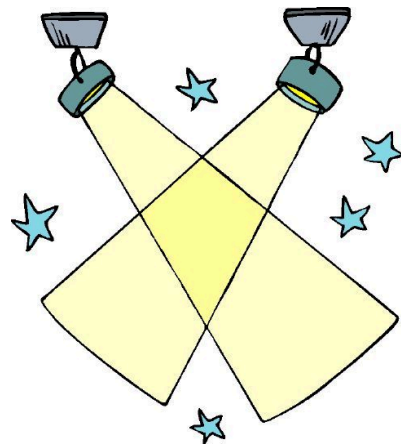
[View the May 2026 RCC Meeting Schedule Now!](#)

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Action Needed by DD Providers: Complete the 2025 State of the Workforce Survey on DSPs

Survey Deadline: June 30, 2026

The Georgia Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) is requesting your assistance with the 2025 NCI State of the Workforce Survey. We are partnering with National Core Indicators (NCI-IDD) on this nationwide effort to better understand our Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce.



This survey is the primary tool we use to advocate for Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing levels, wage increases, and improved compensation strategies. Your past contributions were instrumental in securing Georgia's rate increases, and your current input remains essential for future rate studies. To ensure our data accurately reflects the realities of your agency and the DSP workforce in Georgia, we need your participation.

- **Who:** IDD Provider agencies that employed DSPs during the 2025 calendar year.
- **What:** A survey covering DSP employment numbers, job tenure, pay, benefits, and workforce details for DSPs employed between January 1 and December 31, 2025.
- **Why:** Your participation is crucial for an accurate statewide picture. During the previous cycle, we only reached a 43% response rate. We need your voice to ensure our data tells the full, accurate story of Georgia's DSP workforce.
- **How:** On April 24th, your agency received an email from HSRI (staffstability@hsri.org) containing your unique survey link and login credentials.
Note: This is best completed by your HR or payroll departments. Only one submission per agency is required.

Deadline: Please complete the survey by June 30, 2026.

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

DBHDD Policy Information

Policy Updates

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

[Bowel Management for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Living in Community Residential Alternative Settings, 02-802](#)

Please direct all policy-related questions to the Office of Provider Relations via the Provider Inquiry Management System Plus (PIMS+). To submit your questions, [click here](#).

Office of Provider Relations

Question for your Provider Relations Team?

The Provider Inquiry Management System Plus (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 Inquiry Management System Plus \(PIMS+\)](#)

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
support@bhddpims.zendesk.com.



BE WELL



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

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