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NEWS
"News You Can Use"

APPENDIX K EXTENSION WEBINAR

**Tuesday, April 6, 2021
9:30 am - 10:30 am**



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting a provider webinar to discuss the Appendix K extension on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. This meeting will begin at 9:30am and end at 10:30am.

All participants must use the link below to register for the webinar. This session will utilize the Webex webinar online conferencing system. Please note that it is strongly encouraged that you join the webinar 10-15 minutes prior to the start time to ensure that you do not experience any connectivity issues. Please hold your questions until the end of the webinar. The facilitator will allot time for Q&A at the end of the presentation. Questions entered during the presentation will likely not be addressed until the end.

[Click here to register.](#)

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

DBHDD Behavioral Health Consumer Telehealth Survey



The consumer telehealth feedback survey will remain available **until April 30th**. This feedback survey is for any consumers who received telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic. **We need your help to share this consumers survey!**

Please share the feedback survey with all consumers who received behavioral health services using telehealth. The survey is available in English and Spanish—all consumers will be able to access the feedback survey at www.survey.uga.edu/DBHDD.

You can promote the consumer survey through:

- Emailing consumers
- Passing out flyers
- Posting flyers in your offices
- Helping consumers take the survey during your sessions

The documents below includes suggested email language and printable flyers you can use to remind consumers to complete the survey.

**CONSUMER INVITATION EMAIL REMINDER -
BILINGUAL**

CONSUMER SURVEY FLYERS -

Your assistance in widely advertising and promoting the consumer survey is essential to encourage response. Survey results will help the Division of Behavioral Health plan for future service delivery.

I appreciate your dedication to providing excellent services during this critical time.

Sincerely,

Monica Johnson, Director
Division of Behavioral Health
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

DBHDD Policy Information

Since March 1, 2021 DBHDD updated or developed the following policy:

Human Rights Council for Developmental Disability Services, 02-1101

Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112

Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201

All current policies can be found on [PolicyStat](#).

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

Training Announcements

DBHDD IN-PERSON TRAININGS POSTPONED

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Georgia, and Governor Kemp's Public Health State of Emergency guidance to cancel or postpone all non-essential travel, DBHDD is postponing in-person trainings. The health, safety and well-being of the individuals we serve, practitioners, and staff are DBHDD's top priority, and this decision has been made with those in mind. DBHDD is closely monitoring related developments and will provide additional information and updates related to these events in the coming weeks. Thank you for your interest and event registration, and most importantly, your dedication and commitment to those we serve.

It's important to note that DBHDD is offering virtual trainings and below are those that are scheduled for the month of April. For more information regarding virtual trainings, [click here](#).

- **Cultural & Linguistic Competence Training Series: Diversity Works Series**
- **HRST: One Day Training for Intensive/ Support Coordinators, State Service Coordinators, and Intensive SC Clinical Supervisors**
- **HRST: One Day Training for Provider Raters and RNs**
- **Participant Direction New Enrollment Webinar**
- **Positive Behavior Supports Curriculum Training**
- **The Georgia Person Centered Thinking Learning Lab**

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

LEADING WITH PERSEVERANCE

April 27 & 28, 2021



This year, the Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities (SPADD) Annual Conference is a virtual two-day event featuring dynamic sessions designed to educate and inspire Georgia's professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Our theme this year is **Leading With Perseverance**, and presentations will touch on the ways leadership can strengthen workplace culture and the Direct Support Professional workforce in the I/DD field.

[Click here to register.](#)

Questions? Contact [Angela Easter](#) for more information.

The Power of People Autonomy, Connections & Contribution



Sangha Unity Network, Inc. (SUN), with funding from The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, is hosting "The Power of People: Autonomy, Connections & Contribution" workshop led by Michelle Schwartz, M.Ed. CCC-Sp, and Katie Chandler, LCSW.

[Sangha Unity Network, Inc.](#)

This interactive virtual workshop will explore how we support people with disabilities to be heard and respected, to belong, and to contribute. We will engage in dialogue and activities that will teach participants to assist people in moving towards full, meaningful, inclusive lives within their community.

The dates available for this training are: Tuesday, April 13, Thursday, April 15, & Friday, April 16. This workshop is from 9:30AM - 4:00PM. Registration closes April 9, 2021. Participants only need to select one date to attend.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for the workshop.

DBHDD Announcements

GEORGIA COLLABORATIVE ASO ARCHIVED TRAININGS

The Georgia Collaborative records and posts many trainings and presentations online at their website. This affords access to this information and allows Providers to offer refreshers for current staff, training for new staff and the ability for staff in general to catch up on what they may have missed. The training files are generally posted within two weeks of the event.



Take a few moments to explore what's available by [clicking here](#).

Be sure to bookmark the site for future reference!

[illegible]

Submitted by:
Jeanette David
Disaster Mental Health Coordinator
Division of Behavioral Health



Georgia's COVID-19 Emotional Support Line

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 the 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.

Developmental Disabilities

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Statewide Provider Meeting

**May 6, 2021
9:00 am - 12:30 pm**



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Statewide Provider meeting. Due to the public health emergency, this meeting will be held remotely via our WebEx platform.

Stay tuned for registration information.

IDD COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE WEBINAR

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) hosted an IDD COVID-19 Vaccine Update webinar on Friday, March 19, 2021.

To review the PowerPoint presentation from this webinar [click here](#). This webinar was also recorded, to view the recording [click here](#).

As noted during the webinar, DBHDD is facilitating IDD provider partnerships with DPH to conduct mass vaccination clinics. Any providers that are interested in organizing a vaccination site, please send an email to Statewide.Clinicaloversight@dbhdd.ga.gov. Note in the subject line "COVID-19 Partnership Request".

Lastly, the Sangha Unity Network, Inc. has created the following informational vaccine videos. These can be used as a support for individuals in understanding the COVID-19 vaccine.

- [Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine as a Self-Advocate in Georgia](#)
 - [Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine as a Self-Advocate in Georgia with ASL](#)
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The 2020 National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey

The Georgia DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities would like to request your assistance with the 2020 National Core Indicators (NCI) Staff Stability Survey. Our division has partnered with Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) for the past several years on the National Core Indicators (NCI) project. The NCI project has provided the Division with a wealth of data about the strengths and weaknesses of our system.



**NCI STAFF
STABILITY
SURVEY**

As we have reached the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, daily life for our staff, provider agencies, and the individuals we serve have been

deeply changed and we have been challenged to adapt almost everything we do. The health and safety of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, as well as a great quality of life, is a goal that unites all agency providers. The perseverance of Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) throughout 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic has been amazing as they play an important role in the provision of supports for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Provider input is important for reliable survey information on DSPs and we encourage your participation in making this a successful project. Georgia's participation in the 2020 NCI Staff Stability Survey aids in obtaining data which addresses the instability of the DSP workforce and service improvements.

What is the National Core Indicators (NCI) Staff Stability Survey?

The National Core Indicators (NCI) Staff Stability Survey gathers data on the workforce of Direct Support Professionals serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities age 18 and older. This survey will ask about the status of your agency's DSP workforce employed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. The survey will ask about:

- Services provided by your organization
- Job stability
- Wages & benefits
- Recruitment and retention strategies

Provider input is important for reliable information on DSPs and we encourage your participation in making this a successful project. The 2020 Staff Stability Survey Report has been posted to the [NCI website](#).

Your agency contact will be receiving an email from staffstability@hsri.org inviting you to participate in this Staff Stability Survey. The email will provide your provider agency with a unique log-in that will enable you to enter your survey responses into the database. While DBHDD will be able to tell who has completed the survey, we will not be able to see your agency's responses. Results of the survey will only be reported in the aggregate and your organization will not be identified in any way. **This survey must be completed by June 30, 2021.**

If you have any questions regarding the Staff Stability Survey, please contact Latonya Williams, State Transition Specialist, Division of Disabilities at latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Behavioral Health

DBHDD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2021 & CALL FOR PROPOSALS



The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Behavioral Health is pleased to announce that it will again host the Behavioral Health Symposium **Wednesday - Friday, October 6 - 8, 2021** ; **this year's conference will be held virtually.**

This event informs 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. Stay tuned for more information!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

The deadline to submit proposals is **Tuesday, April 27, 2021**. For more information and to submit your proposals [click here](#).

During the month of March, DBHDD held the **2x2 Series: Daily Self-Care Tips and Support for Health Care and Emergency Response Workers**. This series was presented as Webex events and were designed to provide daily self-care tips and support for health care and emergency response workers. Each session provided attendees with mental health tips about managing stress, grief, work/life balance, and wellness.

If you could not attend the live sessions, each one was recorded and is available for review on the DBHDD website: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2x2-series>.



Office of Provider Relations

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**

Senior Provider Relations Manager

Carole Crowley

Provider Relations Manager

Sharon Pyles

For Provider Relations inquiries,
please contact us at

DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov.



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



