

**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. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).

- **IDD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training**

If you have any questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).



### IDD Statewide Provider Meetings

**November 12th - 14th, 2024**  
**9:00 am to 12:30 pm**



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting in-person Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Statewide Provider meetings. The IDD Provider meetings are held every quarter. This quarter's agenda is available at the link below.

**Click here to register!** The Division of DD will be discussing matters of high importance as it relates to the HCBS Settings Rule, NOW & COMP rate increase updates and upcoming services implementation.

- November 12th - UGA Tifton Campus Conf Center - 15 R D C Rd, Tifton, GA 31794
- November 13th - Anderson Conference Center - 5171 Eisenhower Pkwy suite D, Macon, GA 31206
- November 14th - Douglasville Conference Center, Ballroom, 6700 Church Street, Douglasville, GA 30134

**IMPORTANT NOTE: All IDD Providers are required per their Letter of Agreement (LOA) to have a representative in attendance at the IDD Statewide Provider Meetings.**

**IDD Statewide Provider Meeting  
Agenda**



## Lighting the Path

### 2025 Georgia Suicide Prevention Conference Peachtree City, GA

**Preconference:** February 17, 2025 | **Conference:** February 18 – 20, 2025

**SAVE THE DATE** and plan to join us for Georgia’s largest suicide prevention event of 2025, hosted by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Federal Grant Programs & Suicide Prevention. A pre-conference day will be held on Monday, February 17, 2025, with the 2.5-day conference being held February 18 - 20, 2025.

This statewide learning and networking event brings together suicide prevention, mental health, and behavioral health stakeholders to examine emerging suicide data, learn about innovative prevention programs, and provide opportunities to engage with peers and subject-matter experts on practices and methods in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. This event is intended to benefit suicide attempt/loss survivors, preventionists, clinicians, educators, community members, coalitions / task forces, researchers, administrators, first responders, crisis service providers, and all those invested in saving lives and preventing suicide in Georgia.

***Registration and conference details to follow.***  
**Visit the conference event page at Prevent Suicide GA for updates.**  
<https://preventsuicidega.org/event/conference-25/>

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## Featured Articles

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A graphic with a black background and white and blue text. The word 'IMPORTANT' is in white, and 'REMINDERS' is in blue. Both are in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

**IMPORTANT  
REMINDERS**

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**CMS Approval of**

# Behavioral Health Rate Increase

The Medicaid State Plan Amendment that included rate increases for Behavioral Health services has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is effective 7/1/2024.

**Please review the updated and corrected memorandum at the link below which communicates information regarding the new behavioral health rate increases.** The memo also includes an outline for how these rate increases are being implemented.

We request that you communicate the information contained in the memorandum as soon as possible to the appropriate personnel in your organization, including specifically: (a) billing/finance staff (b) IT staff responsible for rate configurations and if necessary (c) your information system vendors.

## Updated Behavioral Health Rate Increase Memo

This information is also available as a DCH Banner Message on the [GAMMIS web portal](#) and is found by hovering over "Providers" and selecting "Provider Messages" from the dropdown menu.

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## Department of Community Health NOW/COMP Provider Banner Message

Per the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) banner message dated 7/23/2024, DCH announced the approval of the amendments to the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports (COMP) waiver programs. The approved amendments increased rates for NOW/COMP are effective 7/1/2024.

DBHDD, DCH, Gainwell and Carelon have collaborated on significant system programming changes needed to accurately update GAMMIS to accommodate the new rates. System programming is now complete. NOW/COMP providers submitting claims with dates of service on or after 7/1/2024 should adhere to the following instructions:

***\*Effective immediately, providers should bill the higher rate for dates of service on or after 7/1/2024. The billing procedure codes, and increased rate amounts can be found in DBHDD's [Provider Relations Learning Corner for October 15, 2024](#), under the heading, "NOW/COMP & State Funded Services Updated Rate Tables". Rates are also accessible at <https://mmis.georgia.gov>> Provider Information> Provider Notices> "NOW/COMP July 1, 2024, Rate Increase Code listing".***

It is estimated that these updates will occur in multiple phases as needed:

- **Phase 1: 11/6/2024 – 11/18/2024**
  - During the week beginning 11/9/2024 through 11/13/2024, providers are asked to withhold submitting new claims or claims adjustments so updates to PAs can occur. Note, any claims received during this window will be held in suspense and not released until 11/14/2024. Providers can resume claims submission as of 9:00 am on the morning of Thursday, 11/14/2024.
- **Phase 2: 12/4/2024 – 12/16/2024**
  - During the week beginning 12/7/2024 through 12/11/2024, providers are asked to withhold submitting new claims or claims adjustments so updates to PAs can occur. Note, any claims received during this window will be held in suspense and not released until 12/12/2024. Providers can resume claims submission as of 9:00 am on the morning of Thursday, 12/12/2024.

- **Phase 3: 1/8/2025 – 1/20/2025**
  - During the week beginning 1/11/2025 through 1/15/2025, providers are asked to withhold submitting new claims or claims adjustments so updates to PAs can occur. Note, any claims received during this window will be held in suspense and not released until 1/16/2024. Providers can resume claims submission as of 9:00 am on the morning of Thursday, 1/16/2024.
- **Phase 4: 1/22/2025 – 2/3/2025**
  - During the week beginning 1/25/2025 through 1/29/2025, providers are asked to withhold submitting new claims or claims adjustments so updates to PAs can occur. Note, any claims received during this window will be held in suspense and not released until 1/30/2024. Providers can resume claims submission as of 9:00 am on the morning of Thursday, 1/30/2024.

Additional communications will occur as these dates draw near.

### Claim Voids & Mass Resubmission

Providers should be aware that there will be some claims that have to be voided to accommodate the PA updates referenced above. Previously paid claims have already posted against PA's that have not yet been updated. Providers will see those voided claims along with the resubmitted claims on Remittance Advices (RA's) on the payments occurring 11/18/2024 for Phase 1. All voided claims will be mass-resubmitted by Gainwell upon the completion of the PA load. Providers will not have to re-submit any voided claims.

Providers should check banner messages frequently, as any additional updates regarding the NOW/COMP rate increase will be shared there. Providers needing billing assistance should reach out to their assigned Gainwell Field Representative via the '[Contact Us](#)' feature in the GAMMIS web portal.

Please review the above message on the [GAMMIS web portal](#) by hovering over "Providers" and selecting "Provider Messages" from the dropdown menu.

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## Division of Developmental Disabilities

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Sign up now for a FREE series of live internet-based training sessions on using technology. Learn how to use Zoom, Facebook, email, web browsers, Alexa, Google Search, SmartPhones and Tablets. Being included in the Internet is more important than ever for people with disabilities. **Don't be left behind!**

### Fall 2024 - Technology For All Training Series

**Important Opportunity for Self-Advocates And Others To Learn About the Use and Benefits of Technology**

Join us for a series of tech training sessions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, DSPs, and other allies to overcome the digital divide.

This series of training starts on Thursday November 7th, 2024, at 10 am. They will be held on the first Thursday of every month from November 2024 through May 2025. Each month will cover a different topic.

[Click the link](#) to register for the series.

More information on this series is available by [clicking here](#). For any questions, please contact [mytechforall99@gmail.com](mailto:mytechforall99@gmail.com).

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## Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

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### SAMHSA Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program



In response to the long-term recovery needs arising from Hurricane Helene, we are actively seeking partnerships with community-based mental health providers to support the SAMHSA Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP). The CCP is designed to provide essential crisis counseling services to individuals and families impacted by the disaster, helping them navigate and recover from the emotional and mental health challenges they may face.

Through this partnership, we aim to leverage your local expertise and connections to deliver culturally relevant and accessible support, fostering resilience and promoting recovery within our communities.

If your organization is interested in joining us in this mission or would like more details on what partnering entails, please contact Kalie Burke at [kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov).

We would be honored to collaborate with you in making a meaningful difference.

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## DBHDD Policy Information

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

[Accreditation and Compliance Review Requirements for Providers of Developmental Disability Services, 02-703](#)

[Expedited Fair Hearing Requests, 02-1205](#)

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](#).

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## Office of Provider Relations & ASO Coordination

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**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).



## BE WELL



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