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NEWS
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Training Announcements

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Human Resources and Learning, is currently offering virtual trainings. Listed below are those currently scheduled. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).



- [I/DD Participant Direction New Enrollment](#)

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



A Different WORLD

NEW NORMAL. NEW PERSPECTIVES. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2022  Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Division of Behavioral Health is pleased to announce it will host a three-day virtual Behavioral Health Symposium on October 5 – 7, 2022, to inform professionals about best practices in the delivery of behavioral health services and supports. This event is intended to benefit all organizations which currently contract and partner with DBHDD's Division of Behavioral Health.

[Click here to register.](#)

If you experience any technical difficulties with the link and/or registration, contact dbhddlearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

I/DD Supported Employment Virtual Celebration

**Thursday, October 27, 2022
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm**

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM dates back to 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." This year's event continues the legacy of NDEAM and is designed to



honor the contributions of people with disabilities to the workforce and economy in Georgia. Join us in honoring local employers, their employees, and Supported Employment professionals and stakeholders.

The State of Georgia's 2nd annual Supported Employment virtual NDEAM celebration will be held Thursday, October 27th from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Plan to join the DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities, Wise, the Georgia Association of People Supporting Employment First (GAPSE), and the planning team for this important celebration!

Join us Thursday, October 27th from Noon to 1:30 pm in honoring the hard work and achievements taking place in Georgia. [Register for the NDEAM virtual event here](#).

I/DD Statewide Provider Meeting

November 10, 2022
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. This meeting will be conducted remotely via our WebEx platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

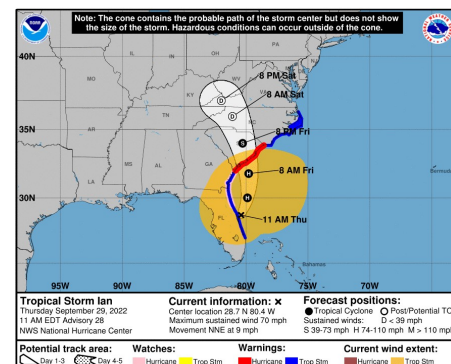
IMPORTANT NOTE: All I/DD Provider Agencies are required to have a representative in attendance at the I/DD Statewide Provider Meetings.

Featured Article By DBHDD Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

Tracking Hurricane Ian

The DBHDD Office of Disaster Mental Health Services is continuing to monitor tropical activity as Hurricane Ian passes over the southeast. The track of Hurricane Ian shifted further east and there is an increased risk of flash flooding and high winds along the coast of Georgia.

Governor Brian Kemp issued a [state of emergency](#) effective 7:00 am on Thursday, September 29, 2022 to midnight on Friday, October 28, 2022 as authorities prepared for Hurricane Ian. The order was declared to increase accessibility to emergency resources as needed following the impacts of the hurricane. For the latest and most up-to-date information, follow the National Hurricane Center on Twitter ([@NHC_Atlantic](#)). Additional details are available by [clicking here](#).



We ask you to stay prepared, as hurricane season is not over yet.

Important Reminder for All Providers and Staff

This is a good time to make sure your personal and emergency contact information is accurate. This is the primary resource your organization will use to communicate

with you during an emergency. This information is especially critical during this time.

Please take a few minutes to confirm or update your information with your organization including home address, personal email, personal cell phone, and emergency contact information.

Additionally, by [clicking here](#) you can access self-care tips from SAMHSA for non-traditional first responders (e.g., substance abuse and mental health professionals).

September National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies which could happen at any time. In light of the current threat, you will find additional resources for providers and information on low/no cost disaster preparedness exercises at the links below.

[Resources for Providers](#)

[Low/No Cost Disaster Preparedness Exercises](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the DBHDD Office of Disaster Mental Health Services at kalie.burke@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Submitted by:

Kalie Burke
Disaster Mental Health Services Coordinator

DBHDD Policy Information

The DBHDD has not updated or developed any policies since September 1, 2022. As a reminder, all current policies can be found on [PolicyStat](#).

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](#).

Division of Behavioral Health

BH Statewide Provider Meeting Presentation

AVAILABLE NOW

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities held the Behavioral Health (BH) Statewide Provider Meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2022.

The presentation and recording of the meeting is now available on the [DBHDD website](#) by hovering over the "**For Providers**" tab and selecting "**Training**" from the dropdown menu. Once on the Training webpage, select "**Mental Health Training Announcements**" to

DBHDD Seeking AOT Program Grant Applicants

**Deadline to Submit
October 7, 2022**



DBHDD would like to announce the upcoming dissemination of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program grant.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment is commonly referred to as the practice of providing court-ordered community-based mental health treatment under a civil commitment to individuals living with serious mental illness if it is determined they may be a danger to themselves or others.

AOT is provided in collaboration between a community service board or private provider, a probate court, or courts with jurisdiction in the corresponding service area, and a sheriff's office or offices with jurisdiction in the corresponding service area, which have demonstrated the ability with grant assistance to practice assisted outpatient treatment.

DBHDD is seeking applicants for the development of AOT programs throughout the state.

Grant application information and supporting documents can be found by clicking on the link: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-dbhdd/be-supported/mental-health-adults/aot-program-grant>.

Division of Developmental Disabilities

I/DD Providers 5% Rate Increase



The Division of Developmental Disabilities would like to provide an additional update regarding the 5% provider payment rate increase for NOW and COMP waiver services.

The authorization to use an Appendix K triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic provides the department a unique opportunity to guarantee retrospective payments. With this opportunity also came unanticipated strain on our billing systems as retroactive payments completed at this scale have not historically been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Ultimately, the department has worked as efficiently as possible to retroactively edit over 27,000 authorizations to support automated reprocessing of 1.9 million claims in a relatively short timeframe.

In our [last bulletin](#), we outlined we were at Stage 3 of the process: the submission of updated prior authorizations to Medicaid (GAMMIS) so they can begin reprocessing the claims for the period 7/1/2021-6/30/2022. We had estimated this would be completed by September 14. Today, I want to let you know this Stage is essentially complete; 98% of the 27,000 authorizations have been submitted to GAMMIS. The team is working to assess the outstanding authorizations and will submit them as soon as possible.

We are entering Stage 4 of the process; all paid claims for the impacted services with an effective date July 1, 2021, or after will be reprocessed systematically by DCH. At this time, we do not expect any action will be needed from providers. The reimbursement of adjusted claims will be staggered over a course of weeks; we will notify the network when this

process begins.

Please note, new Individual Service Plans (ISPs) and Prior Authorizations (PA) generated and/or updated after July 6, 2022, are not impacted by the system reprocessing of the retroactive updates. ISPs and PAs generated and/or updated after July 6, 2022, accurately reflect the 5% rate increase for all services.

We will share additional information about expected distribution date of funds as soon as possible. On behalf of DBHDD, I want to assure you this work remains of highest priority. We have heard your frustration. We understand the provider network is strained and retroactive supplemental payments will help to alleviate financial concerns. The department will continue to work diligently with our partners to resolve all outstanding matters and begin issuing payments as soon as possible. We will update the network with specific timeframes for resolution as soon as we have additional information.

Thank you,

Ronald Wakefield, Director
Division of Developmental Disabilities

I/DD Supported Employment Regional Gardens Meeting



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with WISE (Washington Initiative for Supported Employment), would like to invite you to Georgia's Monthly Supported Employment Gardens Meeting. All Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Supported Employment providers are welcome to attend. If you are not currently a member of the Regional Gardens, this is a great opportunity to join a growing team of providers, state agencies, advocates, and others working together to increase Competitive Integrated Employment in Georgia.

WISE has been instrumental in helping Washington State become number 1 in Supported Employment and is helping Georgia to meet its Big Hairy Audacious Goal to grow to 48.9% in Competitive Integrated Employment by 2025. We hope you will join us!

Gardens meetings will focus on several topics including: I/DD Supported Employment policy, the Gardens transition plan, and planning for the 2nd Annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration in October.

Click the date below to register for the October Regional Gardens meeting.

October 19, 2022, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Contact support@gowise.com for any questions.

DBHDD Announcements



DBHDD's COVID Emotional Support Line Ended September 30, 2022

DBHDD's COVID Emotional Support Line (ESL) services have come to an end effective September 30, 2022.

If you have any clients, staff, family and/or friends who may be in need of assistance please refer them to the Georgia Crisis & Access Line (GCAL: 800-715-4225) or direct them to the [GCAL website](#).

It has been a pleasure to serve you.

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 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"**.

Director
Anna Bourque

Senior Provider Relations Managers
Carole Crowley
Sharon Pyles

For Provider Relations inquiries,
please contact us at
DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov.



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